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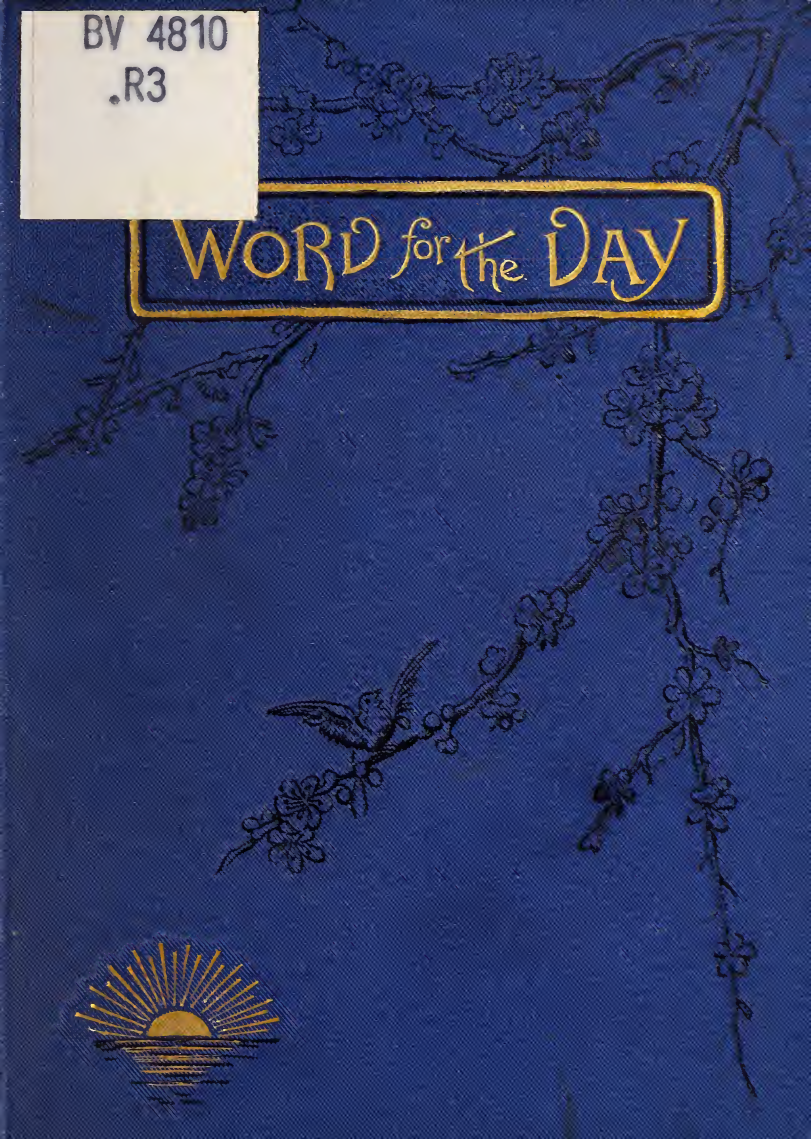

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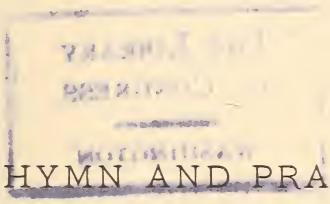
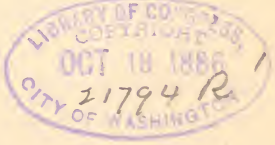


TEXT, HYMN AND PRAYER,

FOR

EVERY DAY IN THE YEAR.

Compiled by A. J. A. R.



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PREFACE.

THE "WORD FOR THE DAY" has been compiled with reference to real, every-day needs, not fictitious or merely sentimental ones. Thus the endeavor has been to touch the work-a-day Christian life at all possible points; to arouse, to strengthen, to comfort the believer with germ thoughts from the divine word, and their echoes in the human mind.

Choosing the poetical thoughts here and there, with reference chiefly to their carrying out or amplifying the topic suggested by the Scripture text, it has not always been possible to find the authors' names. It was not deemed necessary to reject a gem because not labelled with the name of the mine from which it was taken.

The blank spaces at the end of the book may be utilized as a record of birthdays, and other events of personal and family history, or of the way in which the reader has carried out the central thought of the selections. It might be found profitable also to note briefly actions of others which seem to accord with the spirit of the topic; drawing upon history, biography, or fiction for illustrations of the special virtues or sins mentioned.

To a fertile mind, many ways will suggest themselves of making this book further the end that the compiler had in view. That it may not "return void," is her earnest and heartfelt desire.

A. J. A. R.

WORD FOR THE DAY.

January 1.

Newness of Life.

Behold, I make all things new. — Rev. 21 : 5.

Oh, New Year, teach us faith!
The road of life is hard:
When our feet bleed, and scourging winds us scathe,
Point thou to Him whose visage was more marred
Than any man's; who saith
"Make straight paths for your feet," and to the opprest—
"Come ye to me, and I will give you rest."

Miss Mulock.

We beseech Thee, O Lord God, by the patience which Thou hast manifested, by the gentleness which we have proved, by the grace which is revealed of Thee, and by all that is of goodness in Thyself, take charge of us for the year upon which we have now entered. We are strangers to it; we do not know one single path.

January 2.

Prayer for Guidance.

I pray thee, . . . shew me now thy way.—Ex. 33 : 13.

SHOW me the way above all little aims,
All foolish sorrows, and belittling pleasures,
Above small triumphs over little gains,
Above vain grieving for unworthy treasures—
Up to those heights where these things seem child's play,
Show me the way.

Teach me to do the thing that pleaseth Thee, for Thou art my God; teach me to walk before Thee in holiness and humility, for Thou art my wisdom; Thou knowest me and all my frailty.

January 3.

Necessity for Zeal.

Redeeming the time, because the days are evil.—EPH. 5 : 16.

SIN worketh,
Let me work too;
Sin undoeth,
Let me do.
Busy as sin my work I ply,
Till I rest in the rest of eternity.

BONAR.

When I consider, O Lord, how evil grows and sin spreads, make me to arise in terror lest the Adversary of souls be more diligent in his work than I in mine.

January 4.

Love, because Loved.

This is my commandment, That ye love one another, AS I HAVE LOVED YOU. — JOHN 15 : 12.

POUR out thy love, like the rush of a river,
Wasting its waters, forever and ever,
Through the burnt sands that reward not the giver;
Silent or songful, thou nearest the sea.
Scatter thy life as the summer shower's pouring!
What if no bird through the pearl rain is soaring?
What if no blossom looks upward adoring?
Look to the life that was lavished for thee.

ROSE TERRY COOKE.

O Master, fill me with Thy love.

January 5.

The Infinite Father.

If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children, how much more shall your Father which is in heaven give good things to them that ask him. — MATT. 7 : 11.

MY God, take care of me.
Pardon and swathe me in an infinite love,
Pervading and inspiring me, Thy *child*,

And let Thy own design in me work on,
Upholding the ideal man in me,
Which, being greater far than I have grown,
I cannot comprehend.

GEORGE MACDONALD.

We beseech Thee, O Christ, continually to strengthen us by a sincere faith in Thee. *Amen.*

January 6.

Our Refuge.

The Beloved of the Lord shall dwell in safety by him; and the Lord shall cover him all the day long. — DEUT. 33 : 12.

THE Father's arms fold like a nest
His children round about;
His face looks down, a heaven of rest,
Where comes no dark, no doubt.
Its mists are clouds of stars that move
In sweet concurrent strife;
Its winds, the goings of his love;
Its dew, the dew of life.

O God, from whom all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works do proceed: give unto Thy servants that peace, which the world cannot give; that our hearts may be set to obey Thy commandments, and also that by Thee, we, being defended from the fear of our enemies, may pass our time in rest and quietness.

January 7.

God's Greatness.

Who can utter the mighty acts of the Lord? who can show forth all his praise? — Ps. 106 : 2.

"LORD, Thou art great!" in nature's every form;
Greater in none; simply most great in all;
In tears, and terrors, sunshine, smile and storm,
And all that stirs the heart, is felt Thy call;
"Lord, Thou art great!" oh, let me praise Thy name,
And grow in greatness, as I Thine proclaim.

O God, my littleness calls upon Thy greatness for help. O give me strength to grow in Thy likeness.

January 8.

Afflictions Necessary.

For he doth not afflict willingly, nor grieve the children of men. — LAM. 3 : 33.

SOMETIME, when all life's lessons have been learned,
And sun and stars forevermore have set,
The things which our weak judgments here have spurned,
The things o'er which we grieved with lashes wet,
Will flash before us out of life's dark night,
As stars shine most in deeper tints of blue;

And we shall see how all God's plans are right,
And how what seemed reproof was love most true.

MAY R. SMITH.

O Lord, sanctify my afflictions, so that every pang I feel may purify my soul and bring it nearer to Thee; to be made more one with Thee; grant that I may welcome the sufferings which will make me more like to Thee.

January 9.

Love.

Charity . . . thinketh no evil. — 1 COR. 13 : 4, 5.

THE discord is within, which jars
So sadly in life's song;
'Tis we, not they, who are in fault,
When others seem so wrong.

FABER.

O most loving Jesus, pattern of charity, who makest all the commandments of the law to consist in love towards God and towards man, grant to us so to love Thee with all our heart, with all our mind, and all our soul, and our neighbor for Thy sake; that the grace of charity and brotherly love may dwell in us, and all envy, harshness, and ill-will may die in us. *Amen.*

January 10.

All Uses Divine.

Now there are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit. — 1 COR. 12 : 4.

SOME only work with a cotton thread,
And sit all day in the weaving room ;
Some work with the fleecy wool instead,
And some have the richest silk in loom :
Wool, cotton or silk, none need to care
If only the work be good and fair.

My loving heavenly Father, help me to be so earnest, so eager to do well the work which Thou hast given me to do, that I shall have no moments of envious thought towards the work of others of Thy children.

January 11.

This Day.

Cause me to hear thy loving kindness in the morning ; for in thee do I trust ; cause me to know the way wherein I should walk ; for I lift up my soul unto thee. — PS. 143 : 8.

A DAY is born ! Is born to me.
I take its veiled face to my breast,
And dare not ask if it shall be
A day of quiet, or unrest.
I only know that I must seek
Some wisdom other than my own.

My strength is small; my arms are weak,
I cannot bear this day alone.

O Lord, be near to help me.

January 12.

Deeds Better than Words.

Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven. — MATT. 7 : 21.

BE what thou seemest; live thy creed;
Hold up to earth the torch divine;
Be what thou prayest to be made;
Let the great Master's steps be thine.

BONAR.

O Father—
Help me to know Thy will,
Help me to love Thy will,
Help me to do Thy will.

January 13.

Our Need of Cleansing.

Who can understand his errors? Cleanse thou me from secret faults. — Ps. 19 : 12.

BEST friends might loath us, if what things perverse
We knew of our own selves, they also knew;
Lord, Holy One! if Thou, who knowest worse
Shouldst loathe us too!

TRENCH.

Cleanse us, we pray Thee, not only from the commission of sin, but from the love of sin. May we learn so to carry ourselves that with all our heart and mind and soul and strength we may serve Thee, and serve Thee in the spirit of true loving.

January 14.

Prayer for Illumination.

Open thou mine eyes, that I may behold wondrous things out of thy law. — Ps. 119 : 18.

JESUS, do thou mine eyes unseal,
And let them grow
Quick to discern whate'er thou dost reveal;
So shall I be delivered from that woe,
Blindly to stray
Through hopeless night, while all around is day.

Let Thy mercy, O Lord, be upon us, and the brightness of Thy spirit illumine our inward souls; that He may kindle our cold hearts, and light up our dark minds, who abideth evermore with Thee in glory.

January 15.

Lukewarmness.

I know thy works that thou art neither cold nor hot; I would thou wert cold or hot. — REV. 3 : 15.

LUKEWARM souls, the foe grows stronger,
See the host your camp surround!

Arm to battle, lag no longer,
Hark! the gospel trumpet sounds!

Wake, ye sleepers! wake, what mean you?
Sin besets you round about,
Up and search, the world's within you,
Slay, or chase the traitor out.

O God, may our souls be warm with life. Save us from an inanimate and sluggish state. Teach us Thy purity; how great Thy abhorrence of evil, how irreconcilable Thy hatred of it; and may we all partake of the same abhorrence of sin.

January 16.

False Judgments.

The Lord seeth not as man seeth; for man looketh on the outward appearance. — 1 SAM. 16 : 7.

IT'S no great matter what men deem,
Whether they count me good or bad;
In their applause and best esteem
There's no contentment to be had.
Thy steps, Lord, in this dirt I see,
And lest my soul from God should stray,
I'll bear my cross and follow Thee,
Let others choose the fairer way.

BAXTER.

Let me keep in mind, O Jesus, Thy precept and example, by loving mine enemies, by patiently suffering wrong, by doing good to those that persecute me, by praying for those that falsely speak evil against me.

January 17.

Slander.

Thou shalt not go up and down as a talebearer among thy people. — LEV. 19 : 16.

IF thou giv'st words,
Dash not with them thy friend, nor heav'n ;
O smother
A viperous thought; some syllables are swords.
Unbitted tongues are in their penance double ;
They shame their owners, and their hearers trouble.

HENRY VAUGHAN.

Set a guard, O Lord, upon my mouth, and keep the door of my lips.

January 18.

The Value of Little Things.

And whosoever shall give to drink unto one of these little ones a cup of cold water only in the name of a disciple, verily I say unto you he shall in no wise lose his reward. — MATT. 10 : 42.

THE memory of a kindly word
For long gone by,
The fragrance of a fading flower
Sent lovingly,
The gleaming of a sudden smile
Or sudden tear,

The warmer pressure of the hand
Or tone of cheer.
* * * * *
——When the heart is overwrought,
Oh, who can tell
The power of such tiny things
To make it well.

O Lord, grant that I may be one of whom Thou shalt say—
"Thou hast been faithful over a few things."

January 19.

God Liveth Ever.

Hast thou not known? hast thou not heard, that the everlasting God, the Lord, the Creator of the ends of the earth, fainteth not, neither is weary.—Isa. 40 : 28.

God liveth ever!
Wherefore, soul, despair thou never!
Say, shall He slumber, shall He sleep,
Who gave the eye its power to see?
Shall He not hear His children weep
Who made the ear so wondrously?
God is God; He sees and hears
All their troubles, all their tears.
Soul, forget not 'mid thy pains,
God o'er all forever reigns.

Zihn.

O Life of life,
Grant me true faith in Thy life,
That I may purify my life
And enter the life everlasting. *Amen.*

January 20.

Gratitude.

Consider how great things he hath done for you. 1 SAM. 12 : 24.

METHINKS of all the sins that pierce the heart of Christ anew,
And once again, in loveless wise, bring Calvary to view,
That in those hands and feet again the nailprints deep impress,
The blackest is the loveless sin of dark unthankfulness.

We beseech Thee, Almighty God, that the prosperity bestowed upon us may not lead us to be ashamed of Thy worship, but rather may alway enkindle us to render heartier thanks to Thee.

January 21.

Prayer.

Lord, teach us to pray. — LUKE 11 : 1.

WHEN prayer delights thee least, then learn to say,
Soul, now is greatest need that thou shouldst pray.

TRENCH.

Let Thy Holy Spirit teach me how to pray, give me just apprehension of my want, zeal of Thy glory, great resentment of Thy mercies, love

of all spiritual employments that are pleasing unto Thee; and do Thou help mine infirmities, that the devil may not abuse my fancies with illusions, nor distract my mind with cares, nor alienate my thoughts with impertinences.

January 22.

God's Holiness.

Thou art of purer eyes than to behold evil, and canst not look on iniquity. — HAB. 1 : 13.

HOLY, holy, holy! though the darkness hide Thee,
Though the eye of sinful man Thy glory may not see;
Only Thou art holy; there is none beside Thee,
Perfect in power, in love and purity.

HEBER.

Almighty God unto whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid, cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of Thy Holy Spirit; that we may perfectly love Thee, and worthily magnify Thy holy name, through Christ our Lord.

January 23.

Dignity of Labor.

My Father worketh hitherto, and I work. — JOHN 5 : 17.

WORK is the holiest thing in earth or heaven;
To lift from souls the sorrow and the curse.

This dear employment must to us be given,
While there is want in God's great universe.

O Thou Father of all who work, teach and guide me, that not only I may work with zeal, but that I may realize how great and how grand is my privilege in being a fellow-worker with Thee. For the sake of the working Christ. *Amen.*

January 24.

Nearness of Heaven.

O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory? — 1 Cor. 15 : 55.

Surely, yon heaven, where angels see God's face,
Is not so distant as we deem
From this low earth? 'Tis but a little space,
The narrow crossing of a slender stream;
'Tis but a veil, which winds might blow aside.

Into Thy hands I commend my spirit; for Thou hast redeemed me, O Lord, Thou God of truth.

January 25.

Truth.

Lead me in thy truth and teach me. — Ps. 25 : 5.

The one, whole truth I seek,
In this sad age of strife;
The truth of Him who is the Truth —
And in whose truth is life.

Bonar.

O, teach me to do the things that pleaseth Thee, for Thou art my God. Let Thy loving Spirit lead me forth into the land of righteousness.

January 26.

True Sympathy.

Rejoice with them that do rejoice, and weep with them that weep. — ROM. 12 : 15.

ASK God to give thee skill
In comfort's art;
That thou mayst consecrated be,
And set apart
Unto a life of sympathy.
For heavy is the weight of ill
In every heart,
And comforters are needed much
Of Christ-like touch.

E. H.

O most loving Jesus, . . . grant that by constantly rejoicing in the happiness and good success of others, and putting away all envious thoughts, we may follow Thee, who art Thyself the true and perfect love. *Amen.*

January 27.

Humility.

Charity vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up. — 1 COR. 13 : 4.

DOWN with thy pride! With holy vengeance trample
On each self-flattering fancy that appears;

Did not the Lord himself, for our example,
Lie hid in Nazareth for thirty years.

O mortify in me all proud thoughts and vain opinions of myself; let me return to Thee the acknowledgment and the fruits of all those good things Thou hast given me, that, by confessing I am wholly in debt to Thee for them, I may not boast myself for what I have received, and for what I am highly accountable; and for what is my own teach me to be ashamed and humbled, it being nothing but sin and misery, weakness and uncleanness.

January 28.

Riches Unsatisfying.

He that loveth silver shall not be satisfied with silver; nor he that loveth abundance with increase. — ECCL. 5 : 10.

GOLD healeth none!
It hath no balm for wounds,
It binds no broken hearts,
It smooths no ruffled brow,
It calms no inner storm.

BONAR.

Give me grace to forsake all covetous desires, and inordinate love of riches and pleasures, through Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

January 29.

Generosity.

The liberal deviseth liberal things; and by liberal things shall he stand. — Is. 32 : 8.

FOREVER the sun is pouring his gold
On a hundred worlds that beg and borrow;
His warmth he squanders on summits cold,
His wealth on homes of want and sorrow.
To withold his largess of precious light
Is to bury himself in eternal light.
To give
Is to live.

O Lord, grant me such life. *Amen.*

January 30.

Diligence.

Not slothful in business; fervent in spirit; serving the Lord. — ROMANS 12 : 11.

HARK, hark, a voice amid the quiet intense!
It is thy duty waiting thee without.
Rise from thy knees, in hope, the half of doubt;
A hand doth pull thee — it is Providence:
Open thy door straightway and get thee hence;
Go forth into the tumult and the shout;
Work, love, with workers, lovers all about;
Of noise alone is born the inward sense
Of silence; and from action springs alone
The inward knowledge of true love and faith.

Give to each of us the peculiar grace that is needed for our several paths. As each duty is recognized give us the strength of will to perform it, and may we love Thee so dearly that we shall be unconscious of the sense of duty, and be moved only by the love of Thee to every act of our lives.

January 31

The Source of Strength.

The Lord is my rock and my fortress, and my deliverer; my God, my strength, in whom I will trust; my buckler, and the horn of my salvation, and my high tower. — Ps. 18 : 2.

It is Thy strength alone, alone Thy strength
That strengthens me;
And for that strength of Thine, that strengthening strength,
I come to Thee.

BONAR.

O most mighty God of Israel, the strength of faithful souls, look, I pray Thee, upon the labor and sorrow of Thy servant, and assist him in all things which he puts his hand unto. Gird him with heavenly strength.

February 1.

Holy Courtesy.

If any man offend not in word, the same is a perfect man. — JAMES 3 : 2.

KEEP Thou the portals of my lips, lest words
Of levity, or censure undeserved,
Abuse the freedom of my mirthful hours.
Tinge my each word and action with the hue
Of heart-born courtesy and holy love.

Give me, O Lord, a mild, a peaceable, a meek, and an humble spirit, that, remembering mine own infirmities, I may bear with those of others, . . . that I may think lowly of myself, and not be angry when others also think lowly of me; that I may be patient towards all men, gentle and easy to be entreated.

February 2.

Prayer for Wisdom.

That which I see not, teach thou me. — JOB 34 : 32.

IF I am right, Thy grace impart
Still in the right to stay;
If I am wrong, oh, teach my heart
To find that better way.

POPE.

"Lead me in Thy truth and teach me," Lord . . . teach me that Thou art my Wisdom, my Righteousness, my Sanctification, my Redemption, my Help in difficulty, my Refuge in danger, my Ark of Safety across the swelling Jordan, and my All in All throughout Eternity.

February 3.

Zeal and Courage.

Fight the good fight of faith. — 1 TIM. 6 : 12.

HIS is the battle, His the power,
His is the triumph in that hour;
In Him be strong.
So round Thy brow the wreath shall twine,
So shall the victory be Thine,
And Thine the song.

May no spirit of self-indulgence, no love of ease, no dread of opposition, no fear of shame prevent our laying out our lives heartily in Thy service. Make us willing in all respects, to deny ourselves, that we may live unto Thee.

February 4.

Our Responsible Position.

Ye are our epistle . . . known and read of all men. — 2 COR. 3 : 2.

FROM scheme and creed the light goes out,
The saintly fact survives:
The blessed Master none can doubt
Revealed in holy lives.

We beseech Thee, give us that due sense of all Thy mercies, that our hearts may be unfeignedly thankful, and that we show forth Thy praise, not only with our lips, but in our lives; by giving up ourselves to Thy service, and by walking before Thee in holiness and righteousness all our days.

February 5.

Love the Essential.

Though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, and have not charity, I am nothing.— 1 Cor. 13 : 2.

I HOLD that Christian grace abounds
Where Charity is seen; that when
We climb to heaven, 'tis on the round
Of love to men.

Alice Cary.

Make us to be more and more like Thee, and lead us to treat our fellow-men as we ourselves are treated of God. Forgive us all our hard-heartedness and unmercifulness, and cruelty and injustice and unsympathy towards one another. May we be more patient and more forbearing.

February 6.

Humbleness of Heart.

Let not the wise man glory in his wisdom. Neither let the mighty man glory in his might, let not the rich man glory in his riches. — Jer. 9 : 23.

SAD is it to be weak,
And sadder to be wrong,
But if the strong God's statutes break
'Tis saddest to be strong.

Grant me, Lord, the wisdom to be humble in Thy presence who alone art the All-Wise; the might that is gentle as Thou art gentle, oh most mightiest; the spirit that useth riches as Thou usest them, O Creator of all and most bountiful Father. *Amen.*

February 7.

Little Faults.

Take us the foxes, the little foxes, that spoil the vines; for our vines have tender grapes. — CANT. 2 : 15.

AH, it is the foxes small
Slyly climbing o'er the wall,
That destroy the tender vines;
And it is the spark of fire,
Brightening, growing, curling higher,
That across the forest shines;
Just so, step by step, does sin,
If unchecked, a triumph win.

Vouchsafe, O Lord, to keep us this day without sin.

February 8.

Gratitude.

When thou hast eaten and art full, then thou shalt bless the Lord thy God for the good land which he hath given thee. — DEUT. 8 : 10.

WHO broods above a wrong in thought
Sins much; but greater sin is his
Who, fed and clothed with kindnesses,
Shall count the holy alms as naught.

WHITTIER.

O God, endue me with a spirit of true and pious gratitude for all Thy benefits, temporal and spiritual; maintain and increase the same in my heart. Grant me the blessing of a thankful spirit, and dispose me ever to take delight in Thy service.

February 9.

Our Destiny.

We are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them. — EPH. 2 : 10.

WORK for some good, be it ever so slowly;
Cherish some flower, be it ever so lowly;
Labor, all labor, is earnest and holy;
Let your great work be your prayer to your God.

Let labor for Thee be my delight, and all rest be weariness out of Thee. Give me a waking spirit, and a diligent soul, that I may seek to know Thy will, and when I know it, may perform it faithfully, to the honor and glory of Thy ever blessed Name.

February 10.

Quietness of Soul.

Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusteth in thee.— Isa. 26 : 3.

Calm soul of all things! make it mine
To feel, amid the city's jar,
That there abides a peace of thine
Man did not make, and cannot mar.

We beseech Thee, O Lord, to keep us in perpetual peace, as Thou hast vouchsafed us confidence in Thee; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

February 11.

The Mighty Helper.

Come unto me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. — Matt. 11 : 28.

Hither come, ye heavy-hearted,
Who for sin,
Deep within,
Long and sore have smarted;
For the poisoned wounds you're feeling
Help is near;
One is here
Mighty for their healing.

Hither come, ye poor and wretched;
Know His will
Is to fill
Every hand outstretched;
Here are riches without measure,
Here forget
All regret,
Fill your hearts with treasure.

PAUL GERHARDT.

We will come to Thee, O Christ. Thou hast always helped us. Thou art helping us now, and we know that Thy promises are sure, and that forever Thou will support and comfort us. Give us loving, grateful hearts, we beseech Thee.

February 12.

The Rod.

Then will I visit their transgression with the rod, and their iniquity with stripes. — Ps. 89 : 32.

GOD'S rod doth watch while men do sleep, and then,
The rod doth sleep while vigilant are men.

ROBERT HERRICK.

Thanks be to Thee, because Thou hast not spared my faults, but hast beaten me with the stripes of love, inflicting pain and sending trouble upon me without and within. Thy discipline shall be upon me, and Thy rod shall teach me.

February 13.

God's Ownership.

I have called thee by thy name, thou art mine.

O SOUL rejoice!
Thou art God's child, indeed, for all thy sinning,
A poor weak child, yet His, and worth the winning,
With savior eyes and voice.

O most gracious Lord, direct and order all my thoughts, words and works according to Thy good pleasure, and to the praise of Thy name; and conform them to the perfect pattern of Thy most holy life and conversation. I am Thine, and would be Thine, O Lord, in life and in death. Into Thy hands I commend myself, and all that I have.

February 14.

Our Limitations.

And the Lord shut him in. — GEN. 7 : 16.

Is it the Lord that shuts me in?
Then I can bear to wait!
No place so dark, no place so poor,
So strong and fast, no prisoning door,
Though walled by grievous fate,
But out of it goes fair and broad
An unseen pathway, straight to God,

By which I mount to Thee.
When the same Love that shut the door
Shall lift the heavy bar once more
And set the prisoner free.

In captivity, pain, or grief, enable me to see Thy mercy and Thy love, O God, my Creator, Guide and King.

February 13.

Our Superficial Judgments.

The Lord seeth not as man seeth; for man looketh on the outward appearance. — 1 SAM. 16 : 7.

How do we know what hearts have vilest sin,
How do we know?
Many may be like sepulchres within,
Whose outward garb is spotless as the snow;
And many may be pure we think not so,
How near to God the souls of such have been
What mercies secret penitence may win,
How do we know?

O Lord, may we never forget that if Thou should'st deal as unmercifully with us as we do with each other, none of us could stand. While we seek for things that are true and right, and pure and just, may we also seek for the things that are merciful.

February 16.

Our High Mission.

Comfort the feeble-minded, support the weak, be patient toward all men. — 1 THESS. 5 : 14.

BUT thou go forth and do thy deed,
In forest and in town,
Nor sigh for ease, while pain and need
Are plucking at thy gown.

Oh, Thou whose great heart of love is full of compassion for the sufferings of Thy children, so fill me with Thy spirit that casting off all thought of self I may labor with holy zeal to lighten the sorrows of the afflicted, to supply the wants of the needy, and in all things to show love toward my brethren.

February 17.

Liberality.

He that hath a bountiful eye shall be blessed. — PROV. 22 : 9.

FOR the heart grows rich in giving;
All its wealth is living grain;
Seeds which mildew in the garner,
Scattered, fill with gold the plain.
Is thy burden hard and heavy?
Do thy steps drag wearily?
Help to bear thy brother's burden,
God will bear both it and thee.

MRS. CHARLES.

O Lord, most bountiful, I would have the riches which come of giving, I would have the blessedness which comes of blessing, and I would have the love which comes of loving. Help me to this gain, I beseech Thee.

February 18.

Importance of Improving Time.

My days are swifter than a weaver's shuttle. — JOB 7 : 6.

NOT many lives, but only one have we —
One, only one;
How sacred should that one life ever be—
That narrow span!
Day after day filled up with blessed toil,
Hour after hour bringing in new spoil.

BONAR.

Grant that each day may see some work undertaken and carried forward for Thee, that will lead to the uplifting of some soul into a knowledge of Thy love and mercy.

February 19.

Patience under Slander.

Charity . . . beareth all things. — 1 COR. 13 : 4, 7.

WHEN evil tongues with stinging blame
Would cast dishonor on my name,
I'll curb the passions that upstart;

And take injustice patiently,
And pardon, as Thou pardon'st me.
With an ungrudging, generous heart.

PAUL GERHARDT.

Take from me, I beseech Thee, all feeling of displeasure, if others seem to slight me or not to love me. Teach me so to think of Thee, as not to think whether I am slighted or not; but grant that loving all for love of Thee, I may, with them, grow in Thy love and love Thee everlastingly.

February 20.

Our Sun.

For God . . . hath shined in our hearts. — 2 COR. 4 : 6.

IT is Thy light alone, alone Thy light
That cheereth me;
And for that light of Thine, that cheering light,
I come to Thee.

BONAR.

Send out Thy light and Thy truth, that they may give light upon the earth; for I am but as the earth, dark and void, until Thou enlightenest me.

February 21.

Inward Holiness.

The Lord looketh on the heart. — 1 SAM. 16 : 7.

THINK, and be careful what thou art within,
For there is sin in the desire of sin:

Think, and be thankful, in a different case,
For there is grace in the desire of grace.

BYRON.

Bless and sanctify my soul with heavenly benediction, that it may become Thy holy habitation, and the seat of Thine eternal glory: and let nothing be found in this Temple of Thine honor which can offend the eyes of Thy Majesty.

February 22.

Truth.

Speak ye every man the truth to his neighbor. — ZECH. 8 : 16.

THINK truly, and thy thoughts
Shall the world's famine feed;
Speak truly, and each word of thine
Shall be a fruitful seed;
Live truly, and thy life shall be
A great and noble creed.

BONAR.

O holy Lord, who searchest the heart and triest the reins: try me, I beseech Thee, and seek the ground of my heart; cleanse it from all hypocrisy, and suffer not any accursed thing to lurk within me; give me truth in the inward parts, and purity of heart, that I may see Thee in Thy glorious kingdom.

February 23.

Selfishness.

Charity . . . seeketh not her own. — 1 Cor. 13 : 4, 5.

Oh, I could go through all life's troubles singing,
Turning earth's night to day,
If self were not so fast around me clinging
To all I do or say.

Faber.

O Lord, may we learn how to live, not for ourselves, but in the kingdom of love; how to live full of self-sacrifice, and for the joy thereof; how to live full of labors, that we may have that divine rest of which Thou hast taught us.

February 24.

Energy.

The desire of the slothful killeth him; for his hands refuse to labor. — Prov. 21 : 25.

Great voices call to labor, "Lo my Father
Works, and I work with him," the Master said.
Are we His servants then, if we would rather
In easier pathways than He chose, be led?

O God, the Sovereign Good of the soul, who requirest the hearts of all Thy children; deliver us from all sloth in Thy work, all coldness in Thy cause; and help us by looking unto Thee to rekindle our love, and by waiting upon Thee to renew our strength; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

February 25.

Wisdom.

So teach us to number our days, that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom. — Ps. 90 : 12.

LORD, teach us so to mark our days
That we may prize them duly;
So guide our feet in wisdom's ways
That we may love Thee truly;
Return, O Lord! our griefs behold,
And with Thy goodness, as of old,
Oh, satisfy us early!

MONTGOMERY.

May we be zealous for our God with a zeal according to knowledge and charity; and teach us in Thy service to join the wisdom of the serpent with the boldness of the lion and the innocence of the dove.

February 26.

Hopefulness.

Rejoicing in hope. — ROM. 12 : 12.

AND do not fear to hope. Can poet's brain
More than the Father's rich, good heart invent?
Each time we smell the autumn's dying scent,
We know the primrose time will come again;
Not more we hope, nor less would soothe our pain.
Be bounteous in thy faith, for not misspent
Is confidence unto the Father lent;
Thy seed is sown and rooted for his rain.

O God, who hast prepared for all those who put their trust in Thee, such good things as pass man's understanding: give unto me, Thine unworthy servant, such a good hope of life eternal in the heavens, that in all griefs and trials of this uncertain world, my heart may be set on those unfading joys which Thou hast promised through Jesus Christ our Lord.

February 27.

Our Dead.

Let not your heart be troubled. — JOHN 14 : 1.

WE must not doubt, or fear, or dread that love
for life is only given;
And that the calm and sainted dead will meet
estranged and cold in heaven;
Oh! love were poor and vain indeed, based on
so harsh and stern a creed.

O God, who art Lord of the living and not of the dead, and who hast planted in our hearts loves which Thou biddest us make like unto Thine, forbid that we should fear lest love which is of Thee could ever die—teach us to feel that the unchanged love of our departed friends is one of the things of which Thou saidst, "If it were not so I would have told you."

February 28.

True Religion.

What doth the Lord require of thee, but to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God. — MICAH. 6 : 8.

AH, more than martyr's aureole,
And more than hero's heart of fire,
We need the humble strength of soul
Which daily toils and ills require.

O my strong support, grant me some of Thy great strength for the doing of my little deeds of righteousness, some of Thy great patience for the bearing of little ills, and an ever present consciousness of Thy greatness to keep me humble.

February 29.

The Lord's Presence.

Fear thou not, for I am with thee : be not dismayed, for I am thy God : I will strengthen thee ; yea, I will help thee ; yea, I will uphold thee with the right hand of my righteousness. — ISAIAH 41 : 10.

O FATHER, hear my pleading prayers
And help Thy helpless one ;
The way is dark and full of snares,
And I am all alone.
I cannot see—but let me know
Thy hand doth lead me on.

O God, our refuge in pains, our strength in weakness, our help in tribulations, our solace in tears; spare Thy people who trust in Thee, and deliver them out of tribulation, for our Redeemer's sake. *Amen.*

March 1.

Daily Life.

In all things shewing thyself a pattern of good works. — TITUS 2 : 7.

MANY duties must be done,
Help us, Lord, in every one;
If Thou give Thy grace divine,
Every labor shall be Thine.

Give Thy blessing, we pray Thee, to our daily work, that we may do it in faith and heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men. All our powers of body and mind are Thine, and we would fain devote them to Thy service. Sanctify them and the work in which they are engaged; let us not be slothful, but fervent in spirit, and do Thou, O Lord, so bless our efforts, that they may bring forth in us the fruits of true wisdom.

March 2.

Subjects for Fruitful Thought.

Whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report, if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things. — PHIL. 4 : 8.

WHAT is true, and just and honest,
What is lovely, what is pure—
All of praise that hath admonished—
All of virtue shall endure.

Help me, O Lord, to think such thoughts as may be immediately converted into action, into the doing of deeds that will glorify Thy Holy Name.

March 3.

God's Chastening.

Blessed is the man whom thou chastenest, O Lord, and teachest him out of thy law. — PS. 94 : 12.

AND I can bless Thee too, for every smart,
For every disappointment, ache and fear ;
For every hook Thou fixest in my heart,
For every burning cord that draws me near.

GEORGE MACDONALD.

Lord, I am willing to receive from Thine hands good and evil, sweet and bitter, joy and sorrow, and to give thanks for all that may come upon me. Keep me from all sin, and then I will fear neither death nor hell.

March 4.

Brotherly Love.

Look not every man on his own things, but every man also on the things of others. — PHIL. 2 : 4.

LET each of other's wealth
Preserve a faithful care,
And of each other's joy and health,
As if one soul we were.
Such conscience let us make,
Each other not to grieve,
As if we daily were to take
Our everlasting leave.

GEORGE WITHER.

Teach us, O Father, to imitate Thine own boundless beneficence. Freely as we have received, so freely may we give. Quicken within us the fountains of generosity; warm our sympathies towards the sufferer of every class and clime; let not unbrotherly prejudice ever close our homes or hearts against any child of Thine.

March 5.

Christian Activity.

My Father worketh hitherto, and I work. — JOHN 5 : 17.

THY mighty working, mighty God,
Wakes all my powers; I look abroad
And can no longer rest;
I, too, must sing when all things sing,
And from my heart the praises ring
The Highest loveth best.

Present us, O Lord, in all our doings, with Thy most gracious favor, and further us with Thy continual help; that in all our works, begun, continued and ended in Thee, we may glorify Thy holy name.

March 6.

Thankfulness.

O give thanks unto the Lord, for he is good. — Ps. 118 : 1.

NOT thankful when it pleaseth me,
As if Thy blessings had spare days,
But such a heart whose pulse may be
Thy praise.

HERBERT.

O teach me to show my gratitude by bearing without emotion all those trifling vexations so apt to disturb me. How unworthy am I of Thy goodness, when I permit myself to forget, on

any such provocation, or for one moment to cease the language and lose the feelings of praise and gratitude.

March 7.

Zeal.

I must work the works of him that sent me, while it is day: the night cometh, when no man can work. — JOHN 9 : 4.

UP, up, my soul! the long spent time redeeming;
Sow thou the seeds of better deed and thought;
Light other lamps while yet thy light is beaming.
The time,
The time is short.

HEZEKIAH BUTTERWORTH.

Grant me energy, fervor, perseverance and patience—give me zeal and wisdom, O Lord, to do Thy work. O Thou source of all strength, strengthen Thou me. *Amen.*

March 8.

The Great Commandment.

Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might. — DEUT. 6 : 5.

WITH all thy heart, with all thy soul and mind,
Thou must Him love, and His behests embrace;

All other loves with which the world doth blind
Weak fancies, and stir up affections base,
Thou must renounce and utterly displace.
And give thyself unto Him full and free,
That full and freely gave Himself to thee.

SPENSER.

O most loving Father, inflame my heart with love of Thee, that I may do Thy will, and obey Thy commandments.

March 9.

Worthy Objects of Love.

Set your affections on things above, not on things on the earth. — COL. 3 : 2.

IF souls be made of earthly mould,
Let them love gold;
If born on high,
Let them unto their kindred fly.

HERBERT.

Give me grace to renounce all covetous desires, all love of riches and pleasures; to desire only what is necessary, and to be content, O Lord, with what Thou thinkest so.

March 10.

Fasting.

Is not this the fast that I have chosen? to loose the bands of wickedness, to undo the heavy burdens, and to let the oppressed go free, and that ye break every yoke? — ISA. 58 : 6.

It is to fast from strife
From old debate
And hate;
To circumcise thy life;
To show a heart grief-rent,
To starve thy sin,
Not him.
And that's to keep thy Lent.

HERRICK.

O Lord, give me strength at this time to fast from my sins, to deny myself those indulgences of pride, and self-love, and uncharitable thought which have heretofore been my delight, and forgetting self, to manifest Thy praise in holy living. *Amen.*

March 11.

True Prayer.

But thou, when thou prayest, enter into thy closet. — MATT. 6 : 6.

WHEN I have banished wayward thoughts,
Of sinful works the fruitful seed,
When folly wins my thoughts no more,
The closet door is shut indeed.
Lord, teach me to pray.

March 12.

The Divine Paternity.

"*Our Father.*" — MATT. 6 : 9.

WHO spoke the words? Didst Thou?
They are too good, even for such a giver:
Such water drinking once, I must feel ever
As I had drunk but now.

O Lord, may the thought of Thy fatherhood wake in me the feelings of a child.

March 13.

Courage.

Deal courageously, and the Lord shall be with the good. — 2 CHRON. 19 : 11.

DARE forsake what you deem wrong;
Dare to walk in wisdom's way;
Dare to give where gifts belong;
Dare God's precepts to obey.

O Christ, who wast made subject to all man's infirmities, and yet didst never falter nor faint, grant that I, following in Thy footsteps, may be possessed of holy courage, and dare all for Thy name's sake. *Amen.*

March 14.

Purity of Heart.

Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean: wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow. — PS. 51 : 7.

PURGE all my sins done heretofore;
For I confess my heavy score,
And I will strive to sin no more.

Create a clean heart in me, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.

March 15.

God's Will.

The will of the Lord be done. — ACTS 21 : 14.

JUST as Thou wilt is just what I would will ;
Give me but this, the heart to be content,
And if my wish is thwarted, to lie still,
Waiting till puzzle and till pain are spent,
And the sweet thing made plain which the Lord meant.

With all my heart and soul, O God, I thank Thee, that in all the changes and chances of this mortal life, I can look up to Thee, and cheerfully resign my will to Thine.

March 16.

The Result Inevitable.

Be not deceived ; God is not mocked : for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap. — GAL. 6 : 7.

Sow truth if thou the true wouldst reap,
Who sows the false shall reap the vain ;
Erect and sound thy conscience keep ;
From hollow words and deeds refrain.

Open Thou mine eyes that I may see, incline my heart that I may desire, order my steps that I may follow the way of Thy commandments.

March 17.

Shine.

Ye are the light of the world. — MATT. 5 : 14.

"SHINE!" said the Voice, "let the light that is burning,
Buried within thee, illumine the way."
"Nay," said the Christian, "the light is uncertain,
What if it lead my weak brother astray?"
"Herald the dawning, and earth shall rejoice,
Darkness is danger; shine!" said the Voice.

Hear us, O never-failing Light . . .

May our souls be lamps of Thine, kindled and illuminated by Thee. May they shine and burn with the Truth, and never go out in darkness and ashes. May we be Thy house, shining from Thee, shining in Thee; may we shine and fail not; may we ever worship Thee; in Thee may we be kindled, and not be extinguished.

March 18.

True Fasting.

When ye fast, be not as the hypocrites. — MATT. 6 : 16.

WHO hath known trouble, loss, and sad endeavor,
To whom sore pain and lonely hours are sent,
Yet bravely bears his lot, repining never,
Waiting in silence, praying—loving ever,
He best keeps Lent.

O Jesus! crucified for me, subdue my heart with Thy holy fear and love, and since my sins were the cruel nails that pierced Thee, grant that in sorrow for my past life I may pierce and nail to Thy cross all that offends Thee. *Amen.*

March 19.

True Love.

If a man say, I love God, and hateth his brother, he is a liar. — 1 JOHN 4 : 20.

LOVE is the Holy Ghost within,
Hate the unpardonable sin!
Who preaches otherwise than this
Betrays his Master with a kiss.

LONGFELLOW.

Preserve me from imagining that I can love Thee, O Lord, without loving and showing kindness to my brother.

March 20.

True Riches.

There is that maketh himself rich, yet hath nothing. — PROV. 13 : 7.

GOLD filleth none!
That which has life
Alone can fill the living;
That which has love
Alone can fill the loving.

BONAR.

O my God, source of all that is sweet to my soul, change all carnal consolation into bitterness, if it draw me away from the love of things eternal, and entice me by the too tempting offers of present delights. Let not flesh and blood prevail over me, O my God; let not the world and its short-lived glory deceive me.

March 21.

Strength.

If thou faint in the day of adversity thy strength is small. — PROV. 24 : 10.

PASS on from strength to strength,
Faint not nor yield;
With girded loins press on, the goal is near,
With ready sword fight God's great battles here,
Win thou the field.

BONAR.

O Lord Jesus Christ . . . put away from us, we beseech Thee, all sloth and inactivity, both of body and mind. Kindle within us the fire of Thy love, strengthen our weakness, that whatsoever our hand findeth to do we may do it with our might, and that striving heartily to please Thee in this life, Thou mayest hereafter be our exceeding great reward.

March 22.

Unity in Christ.

Now I beseech you brethren . . . that there be no divisions among you. Is Christ divided? — 1 COR. 1 : 10, 13.

FORTH from the midst of Babel brought,
Parties and sects I cast behind;
Enlarged my heart, and free my thought,
Where'er the latent truth I find,
The latent truth with joy to own,
And bow to Jesus' name alone.

Grant that the day of conflicts may have an end: that the day of harmony may come; that men who love Christ may love one another, and not vex each other, and distract each other's forces by the way. Overrule all causes of jealousy, all mischiefs, all evil surmisings, all stumblings at the truth. And grant that Thy kingdom in all the world be advanced.

March 23.

Unworldliness.

Be not conformed to this world. — ROM. 12 : 2.

O WORLD, there's fever in thy touch,
And frenzy in thine eye;
To lose and shun thee is to live,
To win thee is to die.

Grant us, O Lord, not to mind earthly things, but to love things heavenly, and even now,

while we are placed among things that are passing away, to cleave to those that shall abide through Jesus Christ our Lord.

March 24.

Wisdom.

Ponder the path of thy feet, and let all thy ways be established. — PROV. 4 : 26.

HASTE not! let no thoughtless deed
Mar for aye the spirit's speed;
Ponder well, and know the right;
Onward then, with all thy might.
Haste not; years can ne'er atone
For one reckless action done.

GOETHE.

Teach me, O Lord, the way of Thy statutes, and I shall keep it unto the end. Give me understanding, and I shall keep Thy law.

March 25.

Reason of Afflictions.

Every branch that beareth fruit, he purgeth it, that it may bring forth more fruit. — JOHN 15 : 2.

OH, life hath many a wild and rugged turning!
It may be well that budded joys should die,
Lest better hopes, o'er which the soul is yearning,
Should bear no blossom in the world on high.

O teach my untractable spirit a ready compliance with Thy righteous will! Thou knowest what is most expedient for my advancement in

holiness, and how effectually tribulation contributeth to wear away the rust of corruption. Do with me therefore, O Lord, according to Thine own will.

March 26.

The Yoke Easy.

All the paths of the Lord are mercy and truth unto such as keep his covenant and his testimonies. — Ps. 25 : 10.

How infinite and sweet, Thou everywhere,
And all abounding Love, Thy service is!
Thou liest an ocean round my world of care,
My petty every day; and fresh and fair,
Pour Thy strong tides through all my crevices,
Until the silence ripples into prayer.

Vouchsafe, O God, to lead and guide me by Thy counsel here, and afterward receive me into glory.

March 27.

Morning Prayer.

My voice shalt thou hear in the morning, O Lord; in the morning will I direct my prayer unto thee, and will look up. — Ps. 5 : 3.

The day before thee lies,
With all its toil and care;
And dangers round thee rise,
And many a hurtful snare.

For strength the toil to bear,
And danger chase away,
To guard thy feet from every snare,
Rise with the dawn and pray.

I commend to Thee, Lord, my impulses and my startings, my intentions and my attempts, my going out and my coming in, my sitting down and my rising up.

BISHOP ANDREWES.

March 28.

Our Pattern.

The disciple is not above his master, nor the servant above his lord. — MATT. 10 : 24.

ADOWN leads Jesus' path;
And wouldst thou, blindly driven,
By vain, presumptuous pride,
Attempt the heights of heaven?
Thy Saviour God came down!
Wouldst higher thou ascend?
Whoe'er with Him would rise
Must first with Him descend.

O Lord Jesus, forasmuch as Thy life on earth was humble, and despised by the world, grant me grace to imitate Thee, even if the world despise me. Let Thy servant be exercised in a life like Thine.

March 29.

A Prayer for Help.

Thou son of David, have mercy on us. — MATT. 9 : 27.

O SAVIOUR, Christ, our woes dispel,
For some are sick, and some are sad,
And some have never loved Thee well,
And some have lost the love they had
And some are pressed with worldly care,
And some are tired with sinful doubt,
And some such grievous passions tear
That only Thou canst cast them out.

HYMNS ANCIENT AND MODERN.

We sinners do beseech Thee to hear us, O Lord God . . .

That it may please Thee to comfort and help the weak-hearted; and to raise up those who fall . . .

That it may please Thee to succor, help, and comfort all who are in danger, necessity, and tribulation . . .

March 30.

The Result of Sin.

The soul that sinneth, it shall die. — EZEK. 18 : 4.

NEVER by lapse of time,
The soul defaced by crime
Into its former self returns again;

For every guilty deed
Holds in itself the seed
Of retribution and undying pain.

Vouchsafe, O Lord, to keep us this day without sin.

March 31.

Fulfillment.

He which hath begun a good work in you will perform it. — PHILIP. 1 : 6.

THE lives which seem so poor, so low,
The hearts which are so cramped and dull,
The baffled hopes, the impulse slow,
Thou takest, touchest all, and lo!
They blossom to the beautiful.

Grant us to remember, Lord, that what Thou hast promised Thou wilt perform, and walk gladly on our often sad and darkened way, knowing that Light will come hereafter.

April 1.

A Cry for Holiness.

Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. — Ps. 51 : 10.

FOUR things which are not in thy treasury
I lay before thee, Lord, with this petition :—
My nothingness, my wants; my sins and my contrition.

I have undutifully deserted a most loving Father; I have wickedly wasted all His sub-

stance; and while I follow the lusts of the flesh, forgetful of Thy commandments, I have involved myself in a most shameful bondage of sin, and am brought to extreme want; nor do I see whither I can flee but to the God from whom I have fled. Mercifully receive thy suppliant, whom thus far Thou has gently borne with in his wanderings.

April 2.

Slander.

Blessed are ye, when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake. — MATT. 5 : 11.

LAY not to heart whate'er of ill
Thy foes may falsely speak of thee,
Let man defame thee as he will,
God hears and judges righteously.
Why shouldst thou fear, if God be on thy side,
Man's cruel anger or malicious pride?
Be thou content.

PAUL GERHARDT.

Give me patience, good Lord, to bear whatever of slander or of misconception falls to my share, remembering how Thou wast ever misunderstood, and yet didst love Thine enemies and pray for their forgiveness.

April 3.

The Cross.

If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me — MATT. 16 : 24.

HEAVIER the cross, the stronger faith ;
The loaded palm strikes deeper root ;
The vine-juice sweetly issueth
Where men have pressed the clustered fruit ;
And courage grows where dangers come,
Like pearls beneath the salt sea foam.

SCHMOLK.

O Lord, increase my faith, give me courage, give me strength, give me patience. *Amen.*

April 4.

Lesson of the Resurrection.

If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above. — COL. 3 : 1.

WHO doth himself in Christ's grave lay,
Shall rise with Christ on Easter Day.
Who conquers self for others' need,
Hath risen with Jesus, risen indeed.
Who selfishness at the cross lays down,
Shall share with his Saviour the throne and the crown.

Grant, we beseech Thee, Almighty God, that we, putting off the old man with his deeds, may

live according to His life, of whose very self Thou hast made us partakers.

April 5.

The World.

Not as the world giveth, give I unto you. — JOHN 14 : 27.

WHAT gives the world?
Vain honors, empty yearnings
For fame and wealth, and strifes and fierce heart burnings,
And cheap, deceitful pleasure,
And shame, and groans, and sorrow without measure.

Enable me, gracious God, to escape the corruption that is in the world through lust, that I may be partaker of the Divine nature. . . Put away from me all hurtful things, and give me those things that be profitable for me, through Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

April 6.

God's Love.

Yea, I have loved thee with an everlasting love; therefore with loving kindness have I drawn thee. JER. 31 : 3.

FOR the love of God is broader
Than the measure of man's mind;
And the heart of the Eternal
Is most wonderfully kind.

FABER.

O Lord, who am I, that Thou hast so loved me, and sought to be loved by me? O Jesus, grant me to love Thee, not in word and in tongue, but in deed and in truth.

April 7.

The Resurrection.

The Lord is risen. — LUKE 24 : 34.

ARISE sad heart: if thou dost not withstand,
Christ's resurrection thine may be;
Do not by hanging down, break from the hand
Which, as it riseth, raiseth thee.

Raise me, O risen Saviour, from the grave of sin to the heaven of holiness. *Amen.*

April 8.

Prayer.

When ye pray, use not vain repetitions, as the heathen do; for they think that they shall be heard for their much speaking. — MATT. 6 : 7.

I OFTEN say my prayers,
But do I ever pray?
And do the wishes of my heart
Dictate the words I say?

Give me a present mind, great devotion, a heart fixed upon Thy Divine beauties, and an actual intention and perseverance in my prayers, that I may glorify Thy name, do unto Thee true and laudable service, and obtain relief for all my necessities.

April 9.

Peace.

Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. — JOHN 14 : 27.

WHO dwelleth in that secret place,
Where tumult enters not,
Is never cold with terror base,
Never with anger hot.
For if an evil host should dare
His very heart invest,
God is his deeper heart, and there
He enters in to rest.

GEORGE MACDONALD.

O God, who art Peace everlasting, whose chosen reward is the gift of peace, and who hast taught us that the peace-makers are Thy children, pour Thy sweet peace into our souls, that everything discordant may utterly vanish, and all that makes for peace be sweet to us forever.

April 10.

Truth.

Behold, thou desirest truth in the inward parts. — Ps. 51 : 6.

LIE not; but let thy heart be true to God,
Thy mouth to it, thy actions to them both:
Cowards tell lies, and those that fear the rod;
. . . Dare to be true. Nothing can need a lie;
A fault, which needs it most, grows two thereby.

HERBERT.

Grant me this grace, good Lord. To put away lying, bitterness, clamor and evil speaking, with all malice, and to speak the truth in love.

April 11.

Contentment.

Be content with such things as ye have. — HEBREWS 13 : 5.

WHAT Thou shalt to-day provide
Let me as a child receive ;
What to-morrow may betide,
Calmly to Thy wisdom leave :
'Tis enough that Thou wilt care ;
Why should I the burden bear ?

O most loving Father, who willest us to give thanks for all things, to dread nothing but the loss of Thee, and to cast all our care on Thee who carest for us ; preserve us from faithless fears and worldly anxieties, and grant that no clouds of this mortal life may hide from us the light of that love which is immortal, and which Thou hast manifested unto us in Thy Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

April 12.

Our Support.

The eternal God is thy refuge, and underneath are the everlasting arms. — DEUT. 33 : 27.

O HEAVENLY love, how precious still,
In days of weariness and ill!
In nights of pain and helplessness,
To heal, to comfort, and to bless.

O Lord, give me Thy heavenly grace, that I may cast all my care upon Thee, knowing that Thou carest for me; and by whatever path Thou leadest me, oh! save me from all doubt of Thy love, and bring me closer to Thyself.

April 13.

Humility.

Charity vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up. — 1 COR. 13 : 4.

ALL service should be done for Thee
In meek humility,
And awe most sweet,
That Thou shouldst take
E'en for Thy Son, Christ Jesus' sake,
Service from servants so unmeet.

A. E. H.

O Lord Jesus Christ, pattern of humility who didst empty Thyself of Thy glory, and take upon Thee the form of a servant; root out of us all pride and swelling of heart, that owning ourselves miserable and guilty sinners, we may willingly bear contempt and reproaches for Thy sake, and glorying in nothing, save only in Thee, may esteem ourselves lowly in Thy sight. *Amen.*

April 14.

True Religion.

Go ye and learn what that meaneth, I will have mercy and not sacrifice. — MATT. 9 : 13.

No knotted scourge, nor sacrificial knife,
But the calm beauty of an ordered life,
Whose very breathing is unworded praise.

Grant that we may . . . evermore serve Thee in holiness and pureness of living, to Thine honor and glory.

April 15.

Perseverance.

Let us not be weary in well doing, for in due season we shall reap if we faint not — GAL. 6 : 9.

TIRED! Well, what of that?
Didst fancy life was spent on beds of ease,
Fluttering the rose-leaves scattered by the breeze?
Come, rouse thee! work while it is to-day!
Coward, arise! Go forth upon thy way!

O God, who bestowest this upon us by Thy grace, that we should be made righteous instead of ungodly, blessed instead of miserable; be present to Thine own good works, be present to Thine own gifts; that they in whom dwells a justifying faith may not lack a strong perseverance; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

April 16.

Weakness.

Have mercy upon me, O Lord; for I am weak. — Ps. 6 : 2.

WEAK, weak, forever weak!
We cannot hold what we possess!
Youth cannot find, age will not seek,
Oh weakness is the heart's worst weariness.
But weakest hearts can lift their thoughts to Thee;
It makes me strong to think of thine eternity.
FABER.

There is no holiness, O Lord, if Thou withdraw Thine hands. Strength is but weakness, unless Thou preserve it. Watchfulness is not sufficient, unless Thou watch with us. Left to ourselves, we sink and perish; when Thou visitest us, we rise up and live. We are weak in ourselves, but strong in Thee.

April 17.

God's Presence.

And behold, I am with thee, and will keep thee in all places whither thou goest. — GEN. 28 : 15.

IN busy mart and crowded street,
No less than in the still retreat,
Thou, Lord, art near our souls to bless,
With all a parent's tenderness.

Lord, come to us that Thou mayest cleanse us.

Lord, come to us that Thou mayest heal us.

Lord, come to us that Thou mayest strengthen us.

April 18.

Love.

A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another: as I have loved you, that ye also love one another. — JOHN 13 : 34.

LOVE as He loved! A love so unconfined,
With arms extended would embrace mankind.
Self-love would cease, or be dilated, when
We should behold as many selfs as men;
All in one family, in blood allied,
His precious blood that for our ransom died.

WALLER.

O Lord, who hast taught us that all our doings without charity are nothing worth, send Thy Holy Ghost, and pour into our hearts that most excellent gift of charity, the very bond of peace and of all virtues; without which, whosoever liveth is counted dead before Thee.

April 19.

Belief.

Although thou sayest thou shalt not see him . . . trust thou in him. — JOB 35 : 14.

FATHER of Lights, highest, unspeakable,
On whom no changing shadow ever fell!

Thy light we know not, are content to see ;
And shall we doubt because we know not Thee ?
Or, when Thy wisdom cannot be expressed,
Fear, lest dark vapors brood within Thy breast ?
It shall not be.

Lord, give me grace to trust Thee at all times, in joy and in sorrow, in sickness and in health, and, in Thy good time, enable me truly to say, with Thy servant of old, "I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that He is able to keep that which I have committed unto Him against that day."

April 20.

Human Judgments.

Judge not. — MATT. 7 : 1.

FEEL'ST thou not friends who blame thee, ever jar
With truth, nor on thy soul's true ulcer bite ?
Feel'st thou not utterly, that nothing can
Convey thy being to another's breast ?
Then how shalt thou explore thy fellow man ?
Rather let Christ's great wisdom be confessed,
Who taxed rash judgment as this world's worst leaven,
And the worst temper for the courts of heaven.

O Thou Searcher of hearts, by whom alone actions, and words, and thoughts are justly weighed ; keep far from us all disposition to

judge and censure our brethren. . . In our conduct to each other let mercy still rejoice against judgment.

April 21.

Love.

Owe no man anything, but to love one another. — ROM. 13 : 8.

O BROTHER man! fold to thy heart thy brother;
Where pity dwells, the peace of God is there;
To worship rightly is to love each other,
Each smile a hymn, each kindly deed a prayer.
WHITTIER.

Grant us Thy spirit, O Lord.

That, as Thou hast loved us, so we may love one another, with a pure heart, fervently, putting away from us all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamor, and evil speaking, with all malice, being kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as Thou, O Christ, hast forgiven us.

April 22.

Trust.

Commit thy way unto the Lord; trust also in him; and he shall bring it to pass. — PS. 37 : 5.

LIKE a blind spinner in the sun,
I tread my days;
I know that all the threads will run
Appointed ways:

I know each day will bring its task,
And being blind, no more I ask.

H. H.

I commend to Thee, O Lord, my soul and my body, my mind and my thoughts, my prayers and my vows, my senses and my limbs, my words and my works, my life and my death.

April 23.

God's Knowledge of Us.

For I know the thoughts that I think towards you, saith the Lord, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end. — JER. 29 : 11.

HENCEFORTH my own desire shall be
That He who knows me best should choose for me,
And so, whate'er His love sees good to send,
I'll trust it's best, because He knows the end.

MRS. HOBART.

O Christ, who hast ever been misunderstood, even by those whom Thou lovest, grant that I may not misunderstand Thee, nor think Thee harsh and angered against me when Thou art but manifesting Thy deepest love.

April 24.

Light.

Walk as children of light. — EPH. 5 : 8.

WHY walk in darkness? Our true light yet shineth,
It is not night but day!
All healing and all peace His light enshrineth,
Why shun His loving ray?

Enlighten me, O Lord Jesus, with the brightness of Thine inner light, and expel all darkness from the secret places of my heart. Restrain my wandering, and deliver me from the power of temptations.

April 25.

The Wise Choice.

Let us lay aside every weight. — HEB. 12 : 1.

DISPATCH necessities; life hath a load
Which must be carried on, and safely may;
Yet keep those cares without thee, let the heart
Be God's alone, and choose the better part.

HENRY VAUGHAN.

O Lord, Thou knowest how many demands will be made this day upon my strength, my energies, my time. Do Thou give me wisdom to discern which are the truly needful ones, and courage and steadfastness of purpose, and will to put my hand forth to such only, casting aside all which would hinder me in the race.

April 26.

God's Will.

Always laboring fervently for you in prayers, that ye may stand perfect and complete in all the will of God. — COL. 4 : 12.

YET more and more this truth doth shine,
From failure and from loss;
The will that runs transverse to Thine
Doth thereby make its cross:
Thine upright will
Cuts straight and still,
Through pride, and dream, and dross.

Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

April 27.

The Life to Come.

In thy presence is fullness of joy; at thy right hand there are pleasures for evermore. — PS. 16; 11.

To others, Death seems dark and grim,
But not, Thou Life of life, to me;
I know Thou ne'er forsakest him
Whose heart and spirit rest in Thee.
Oh, who would fear his journey's close,
If from dark woods and lurking foes
He then found safety and release?
Nay, rather with a joyful heart
From this dark region I depart
To Thy eternal light and peace.

DESZLER.

Into Thy hands, O Lord, I commend my spirit.

April 28.

Prayer for Guidance.

For thou art my rock and my fortress: therefore, for thy name's sake, lead me and guide me. — Ps. 31 : 3.

UNLESS Thou show to us Thine own true way,
No man can find it; Father! Thou must lead.
Do Thou, then, breathe those thoughts into my mind
By which such virtue may in me be bred
That in Thy holy footsteps I may tread;
The fetters of my tongue do Thou unbind,
That I may have the power to sing of Thee,
And sound Thy praises everlastingly.

O God . . . mercifully grant that Thy holy spirit may in all things direct and rule our hearts: through Jesus Christ our Lord.

April 29.

Our God.

He is the Rock, his work is perfect; for all his ways are judgment: a God of truth and without iniquity, just and right is he. — DEUT. 32 : 4.

THOU art God in Thy justice,
And trueness and goodness;
Thou art wholly and solely
The Lord!—

To Thee be the glory,
Which saints, in the highest, accord.

O Lord, we thank Thee that Thou art in the heaven transcendently more glorious than any human imagination can understand. By searching we cannot find Thee out—the depth of Thy love, the power of Thy sympathy, the sweetness of Thy patience, the greatness of Thy forgiving mercy none can understand. Grant that we may grow in grace, and so in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.

April 30.

Our Help in Temptation.

In all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin. — HEB. 4 : 15.

PURE as snow from taint of wrong,
Thou hast felt temptation strong ;
Thou wilt help me firm to stand
When the tempter is at hand ;
Thou wilt turn my thoughts to Thee,
And the thought of sin will flee.

R. J. PALGRAVE.

We pray Thee, O Lord, be present to Thy suppliants ; and amid the snares of a wicked world, protect our weakness with never-failing love ; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

May 1.

Christ the Way.

I am the way, the truth, and the life. — JOHN 14 : 6.

ART thou the way, Lord? Then the way is sweet,
No matter if it puzzle or distress,
Though winds may scourge, or blinding suns may beat,
The perfect rest shall round our weariness,
Cool dews shall heal the fevered pulse of day;
We shall find home at last through Thee, the way.

Jesus our Master, do Thou meet us while we walk in the way, and long to reach the Country; so that following Thy light we may keep the way of righteousness, and never wander away into the horrible darkness of this world's night, while Thou, who art the Way, the Truth, and the Life, art shining within us.

May 2.

Worldliness.

Unspotted from the world. — JAMES 1 : 27.

FLY from the world and dwell with soothfastness,
Sufficient be thy wealth, albeit small;
Avarice hath hate, ambition carefulness,

And praise despite, yet good is mixed with all;
Taste no more sweets than to thy share may fall;
Counsel thyself, that well canst counsel give,
And fear not Truth shall teach thee how to live.

CHAUCER.

Grant me this grace, good Lord, not to lust evil lusts, not to be eager after the pleasures, the riches, and the vanities of this world, not to envy others for what Thou art pleased to give them.

May 3.

Our Thank-offering.

What shall I render unto the Lord for all his benefits toward me? — Ps. 116 : 12.

So, Lord, our stubborn wills we first will break,
If Thou wilt take;
And next our selfishness, and then our pride—
And what beside?
Our hearts, Lord, poor and fruitless though they be,
And quick to change, and nothing worth to see.

I offer to Thee, also, all my good deeds, however few and imperfect, that Thou mayest purify and sanctify them, that Thou mayest approve them, and make them acceptable to Thyself, and cause them to lead to better deeds still.

May 4.

Self-knowledge.

Let us search and try our ways, and turn again to the Lord. — LAM. 3 : 40.

. . . IF thou turn thy thoughts
Upon thyself, even for that great sake
Of purity and conscious whiteness, self,
Thou wilt but half succeed. The other half
Is to forget the first, and all thyself,
Quenching thy moonlight in the blaze of day,
Turning thy being full unto thy God.

GEORGE MACDONALD.

Grant, Lord, that I may know my sins : that I may turn shuddering from my sins : that I may gaze upon Thy holiness, and be filled with Thy spirit. *Amen.*

May 5.

The Christian's Joy in Christ.

In thy presence is fulness of joy ; at thy right hand there are pleasures forever more. — Ps. 16 : 11.

WITHOUT Thy presence, wealth is bags of cares ;
Wisdom but folly ; joy disquiet, sadness ;
Friendship is treason, and delights are snares,
Pleasures but pain, and mirth but pleasing madness—

Without Thee, Lord, things be not what they be,
Nor have their being, when compared with Thee.

FRANCIS QUARLES.

O let me, then, be forever inviolably attached to Thee! Let the sweets of Thy presence so captivate my soul, that, disgusted with sin, it may be fixed in the contemplation of Thee, and listen with docility to Thy holy inspirations.

May 6.

God's Presence.

Abide with us. — LUKE 24 : 29.

LEAVE me not, God, until—nay, until when?
Not till I have with Thee, one heart, one mind;
Not till the Life is Light in me, and then
Leaving is left behind.

Be, Lord,

within	me	to strengthen me.
without		to guard me.
over		to shelter me.
beneath		to establish me.
before		to guide me.
after		to forward me,
round about		to secure me.

May 7.

Our Refuge.

Thus saith the Lord . . . Call unto me, and I will answer thee. — JER. 33 : 2, 3.

HAST thou no pining want, or wish, or care,
That calls for holy prayer?
Has thy day been so bright
That in its flight
There is no trace of sorrow?
And art thou sure to-morrow
Will be like this, and more
Abundant?

MARGARET MERCER.

We beseech Thee, O Lord, vouchsafe us an unceasing perseverance in praying unto Thee; that as Thou dost not forsake us when we are bowed down in tribulation, so Thou mayest cherish us with more abundant grace when we continually beseech Thy majesty; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

May 8.

A Reason for Loving God.

I will love thee, O Lord, my strength. — Ps. 18 : 1.

FOR Thy grandeur is all tenderness,
All mother-like and meek;
The hearts that will not come to it,
Humbling itself to seek.

FABER.

O God, whom should I love, if I love not Thee, my Life, my Love, my All. O Love, my God, I believe in Thee, I hope in Thee, and with my whole heart I love Thee, and my neighbor for Thy sake.

May 9.

Aspiration.

Let the words of my mouth, and the meditation of my heart, be acceptable in thy sight, O Lord, my strength and my redeemer. — Ps. 19 : 14.

How shall I reach the Lord? Oh, soar above,
Ambitious soul. But which way should I fly?
Thou, Lord, art way and end. What wings have I?
Aspiring thoughts of faith, of hope, of love:
Oh, let these wings, that way alone
Present me to Thy blissful throne.

BISHOP HALL.

O God, my Saviour and my Lord, grant, I beseech Thee, that the contemplation of Thy dear love may ever inspire my inflamed heart with the zealous return of love to Thee, my God, and with the most fervent charity to all the members of Thy holy church.

May 10.

Diligence.

In the morning sow thy seed, and in the evening withhold not thine hand. — ECCL. 11 : 6.

FATHER, lift from our souls
Inaction's chain;
We would not at life's close
Have lived in vain.
Help us to aid the right,
Where e'er it be;
Shed o'er our souls the light
Which shows us Thee.

May grace be imparted to each one of us—so to believe and to rejoice in Christ Jesus—so to follow His footsteps, and to imitate His example—that finally we may all meet together, as His ransomed people, in the heavenly kingdom.

May 11.

Consecration.

Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. — MATT. 22 : 37.

HE loves not Christ at all,
Who loves Him not o'er all.

Increase Thy grace in me, that daily more and more dead to myself, I may live and be led by Thy Spirit, fearing nothing but Thee, than whom nothing is greater or more powerful, loving nothing but Thee, than whom nothing is more to be loved, glorying in nothing but Thee, who art the true glory of all saints, seeking nothing but Thee, than whom nothing is better, desiring nothing but Thee, who art full and per-

fect felicity with the Father and the Holy Ghost throughout all ages.

May 12.

Praise.

I will mention the loving kindnesses of the Lord, and the praises of the Lord, according to all that the Lord hath bestowed on us. — Isa. 63 : 7.

Speak, lips of mine!
And tell abroad
The praises of thy God.
Speak, stammering tongue!
In gladdest tone
Make His high praises known.

O God, whose name is great, wonderful and holy, grant that I may glorify Thee not only with my lips, but in my life, that others, seeing my good works, may glorify our Father which is in Heaven.

May 13.

Fruition.

The Lord will perfect that which concerneth me. — Ps. 138 : 8.

New grief, new hope He will bestow,
Thy grief and pain to quell.
Into thy heart Himself will go,
And that will make thee well.

George MacDonald.

Lord, make me to know Thee aright, that I may more and more love, and enjoy and possess Thee. And since in the life here below I cannot fully attain this blessedness, let it at least grow in me day by day, until it all be fulfilled at last in the life to come! Here be the knowledge of Thee increased, and there let it be perfected. Here let my love to Thee grow, and there may it ripen; that my joy being here great in hope, may there in fruition be made perfect.

May 14.

The Nature of Our Rest.

There remaineth therefore a rest to the people of God. — HEB. 4 : 9.

WHERE heavenly love is cause of holy life,
And holy life increaseth heavenly love;
Where peace established without fear of strife,
Doth prove the blessing of the soul's behoove,
Where thirst nor hunger, grief nor sorrow dwelleth,
But peace in joy, and joy in peace excelleth.

MARY SIDNEY.

Grant, we pray Thee, that at last, when our work is accomplished, we may be more than willing to go. Grant that we shall have such a measure of the joy of the heavenly life that we shall be glad to leave this world.

May 15.

Swiftness of Time.

It is high time to awake out of sleep. — ROM. 13 : 11.

'TIS not for man to trifle! Life is brief,
And sin is here.
Our age is but the falling of a leaf,
A dropping tear.
We have no time to sport away the hours,
All must be earnest in a world like ours.

BONAR.

Make us to realize here, our Father, the responsibility resting upon us as individuals whose influence is elevating or depressing the moral sentiment of the time in which we live. . . . Put a higher moral purpose into each of our lives, and the strength needed to live up to that standard.

May 16.

Quietness of Heart.

Be still, and know that I am God. — PS. 46 : 10.

BE still, my soul; Jehovah loveth thee;
Fret not, nor murmur at thy weary lot;
Though dark and lone thy journey seems to be,
Be sure that thou art ne'er by Him forgot.
He ever loves; then trust Him, trust Him still,
Let all thy care be this, the doing of His will.

I believe in Thee, O Lord, that thou art Almighty, infinitely Wise, and supremely Good; True and Faithful to Thy promises, yea, Truth itself. Lord, increase my faith, help Thou mine unbelief.

May 17.

Cheerfulness in Work.

Whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men. — COL. 3 : 23.

WORK for Him gladly here,
Without a grudge or fear;
Thy labor shall be light
And all thy days be bright.

O God, who hast commanded that no man should be idle, but that we should all work with our hands the thing that is good; grant that I may diligently do my duty in that station of life in which Thou hast been pleased to call me. Give me grace, that I may honestly improve all the talents Thou hast committed to my trust— through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

May 18.

God's Praise.

All thy works shall praise thee, O Lord. — PS. 145 : 10.

HAPPY who walks with Him! whom what he finds
Of flavor or of scent in fruit or flower,

Or what he views of beautiful or grand
In nature, from the broad majestic oak
To the green blade that twinkles in the sun,
Prompts with remembrance of a present God.

We thank Thee that Thou hast nowhere left Thyself without a witness, but everywhere makest revelations of Thyself, where day unto day uttereth speech of Thee, and night unto night showeth knowledge; yea, where there is no other voice nor language, Thou, Lord, speakest, in Thine infinite wisdom and Thy boundless love.

May 19.

Individuality of Work.

As every man hath received the gift, even so minister the same. — 1 PET. 4 : 10.

—— EACH hath
A path, his own, no other feet can tread.
Nor doubt, because it winds round hills, with end
Yet out of sight, it leads not home. For thee
'Tis mapped in wisdom's deepest love.
In hope go forward, safe with God amidst
The billows — safe when mighty hosts pursue;
And know each duty brings its needed strength.

O Lord, make me faithful.

May 20.

The Joy of Giving.

Remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he said, It is more blessed to give than to receive. — Acts. 20 : 35.

There is a wealth descending from the sky,
That falls on every loyal gift we bring,
A heavenly fragrance that can never die,
Breathing through all our true heart-offering:
If with each gift unselfish love we weave,
"More blessed 'tis to give than to receive."

O Lord, may we know that blessing; may we give unceasingly of all that which Thou hast bestowed upon us — may we give cheerfully, gladly, wisely, bountifully. For the Great Giver's sake. *Amen.*

May 21.

The Rest.

There the weary be at rest. — Job 3 : 17.

No baffled hope can haunt, no doubt perplexes,
No parted love the deep repose can chafe,
No petty care can irk, no trouble vexes,
From misconstruction his hushed heart is safe.
Freed from the weariness of worldly fretting,
From pain and failure, bootless toil and strife,
From the dull wretchedness of vain regretting,
He lies, whose course has passed away from life.

O God, take from me all fear of Death,
Help me to trust Thy word, and cleave to Thy promises.
Let me, looking forward to Thy rest,
Work in hopefulness, and love and gladness.

May 22.

Sincerity in Prayer.

When thou prayest, thou shalt not be as the hypocrites are. — MATT. 6 : 5.

PRAYER is the soul's sincere desire,
Uttered or unexpressed;
The motion of a hidden fire
That trembles in the breast.

MONTGOMERY.

Lord, teach us to pray.

May 23.

Repentance.

Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow. — PS. 51 : 7.

FROM my lips in their defilement,
From my heart in its beguilement,
From my tongue which speaks not fair,
From my soul stained everywhere —
O my Jesus, take my prayer.

JOHN OF DAMASCUS.

O most dear Lord, whom I desire with all devotion to receive, Thou knowest my infirmity and the necessities which I feel; by what evils and sins I am oppressed; how often I am op-

pressed, tempted, disturbed, defiled. I come to Thee for a remedy, I beseech Thee to grant me consolation and relief.

May 24.

Trueness.

Fear the Lord, and serve him in truth with all your heart. — 1 SAM. 12 : 24.

THINK truly, and thy thought
Shall the world's famine feed;
Speak truly, and thy word
Shall be a fruitful seed;
Live truly, and thy life shall be
A great and noble creed.

BONAR.

O Heavenly Father, Thou who art all Truth — help me, help me to be true towards Thee, towards my neighbor and to myself.

May 25.

Our Perfect Safety.

The beloved of the Lord shall dwell in safety by him. — DEUT. 33 : 12.

BE thou His happy child,
Lord blest and reconciled;
Walk calmly on, each hour
Safe in His love and power.

BONAR.

We beseech Thee, O Lord, to keep us in perpetual peace, as Thou hast vouchsafed us confidence in Thee; through Christ Jesus our Lord.

May 26.

God Omnipresent.

Whither shall I go from thy spirit? or whither shall I flee from thy presence? — Ps. 139 : 7.

God is ever present, ever felt,
In the void waste, as in the city full,
And where He vital breathes, there must be joy.
James Thomson.

Thou alone art near even to those that remove far from Thee. O Lord, help us to turn and seek Thee; for not as we have forsaken our Creator hast Thou forsaken Thy creation. Let us turn and seek Thee . . . Thou Lord who madest us, remarkest and comfortest us.

May 27.

God in Nature.

O Lord, how manifold are thy works! in wisdom hast thou made them all: the earth is full of thy riches. — Ps. 104 : 24.

To heighten thy devotions, and keep low
All mutinous thoughts, what business e'er thou hast,
Observe God in His works; here fountains flow,
Birds sing, beasts feed, fish leap, and th' earth stands fast;
Above are restless motions, running lights,
Vast circling azure, giddy clouds, days, nights.
Vaughan.

For there is none like unto Thee, O God; there is none that can do the miracles which Thou doest. Thy works are very good, Thy judgments are true, and all things are governed by Thy providence. Praise therefore, and glory be unto Thee; let my mouth, my soul, and all created things bless and praise Thee, O Lord.

May 28.

Small Services.

Who hath despised the day of small things? — ZECH. 4 : 10.

Do thy little; God hath made
Million leaves for forest shade;
Smallest stars their glory bring,
God employeth everything.

O thou Maker of all things, great and small, enable me to remember that as the small rain falleth upon the tender herb, so the performance of my small duties may be for the refreshment of some thirsting soul; and that as the sparrow is not too small to escape Thine all-seeing eye, so my little services, and little struggles, and little victories over self may be well pleasing in Thy sight.

May 29.

Give!

Freely ye have received, freely give. — MATT. 10 : 8.

ALMOST the day of thy giving is over:
Ere from the grass dies the bee-haunted clover
Thou wilt have vanished from friend and from lover,
What shall thy longing avail in thy grave?
Give as the heart gives, whose fetters are breaking,
Life, love, and hope, all thy dreams and thy waking,
Soon, heaven's river thy soul-fever slaking,
Thou shalt know God, and the gift that He gave.

ROSE TERRY COOKE.

O God, if I have received from Thee even one smile only, help me to share that life-giving joy with another. *Amen.*

May 30.

The Cross.

He that taketh not his cross, and followeth after me, is not worthy of me. — MATT. 10 : 38.

HEAVIER the cross, the nearer Heaven.
No cross without, no God within.
Death, judgment, from the heart are driven
Amid the world's false glare and din.

Oh! happy he, with all his loss,
Whom God hath let beneath the cross.

BENJAMIN SCHMOLK.

Thou alone knowest what is good for me; Thou art Lord of all; do, therefore, what seemeth Thee best. Give to me, or take from me; conform my will to Thine; and grant . . . that I may equally adore every dispensation which will come to me from Thy hand.

May 31.

The Loving Heart.

If we love one another, God dwelleth in us, and his love is perfected in us. — 1 JOHN 4 : 12.

HE serves Thee best who loveth most
His brothers and Thy own.
Thy litanies, sweet offices
Of love and gratitude;
Thy sacramental liturgies
The joy of doing good.

WHITTIER.

Grant that the exercise of our powers of assistance may only be limited by our capacity to help. And oh, our Father! we know that we can only help as we are helped by Thee. Keep thou our hand closely clasped in Thine, and then only can the other hand be stretched out to a troubled or needy one with safety.

June 1.

The Lord's Garden.

My beloved is gone down into his garden. — SOLOMON'S SONG 6 : 2.

DOTH He require at thy hands aught but this?
To let thy garden show itself so fair
That others seeing it, shall straightway go
And till the portions given to their care.

O Master, help me to work unceasingly, that Thou mayest find flowers of humility, patience, gentleness—flowers of truth, of justice, of love to Thee and to man—fadeless flowers of righteousness like unto the flowers of heaven, thine abode.

June 2.

The Heart's Longings.

O that I had wings like a dove! for then would I fly away, and be at rest.— Ps. 55 : 6.

WINGS! Wings!
To leave the level of earthly things;
The dust of the under world; the din
Of law and logic; the ghost of sin;
The eyes of prisoners at the grate;
The voice of beggars beside the gate;
The sense of something averse to good —
A warped intention — a vicious mood
In the face of nature; a sense more keen
Of lapse and breakage and death within;
The self that stifles, and clings, and stings;
Wings! wings!

Help me in all my aspirations to remember that Thou, the All-high, were content to tread the earth, uplifting all life's common duties into high service.

June 3.

Prayer for Holiness.

Now the God of peace . . . make you perfect in every good work to do his will, working in you that which is well pleasing in his sight. — HEB. 13 : 20, 21.

WHAT is foul, oh ! purify,
Water what in us is dry,
All our hurts alleviate,
Bend our temper's rigidness,
Warm our nature's frigidness,
Bring back all who deviate.

Give them who in Thee abide,
All that do in Thee confide,
Give them grace increasingly :
Give to virtue its reward,
Saving end to all accord,
Joy in heaven unceasingly.

ROBERT II., KING OF FRANCE.

O Almighty Lord, and everlasting God, vouchsafe, we beseech Thee, to direct, sanctify, and govern both our hearts and bodies in the ways of Thy laws, and in the works of Thy commandments. *Amen.*

June 4.

Peace.

When he giveth quietness, who then can make trouble. — JOB 34 : 29.

So, to the soul that knows Thy love, O Purest,
There is a temple, peaceful evermore;
And all the bubble of life's angry voices
Die in hushed stillness at its sacred door.

H. B. STOWE.

O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of world, grant us Thy peace.

June 5.

God's Fear.

Let us have grace, whereby we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear. — HEB. 12 : 28.

LET knowledge grow from more to more,
But more of reverence in us dwell;
That mind and soul, according well,
May make one music as before.

TENNYSON.

O God, who by the prophet's voice dost pronounce those blessed that fear Thee; grant us to render an acceptable obedience in Thy fear, and make us henceforth to walk in Thy ways; and let our work under Thy direction be pleasing in Thy sight, and its fruit be sweet in the day of reward.

June 6.

Character Building.

Behold, I purpose to build an house unto the name of the Lord my God. — 1 KINGS 5 : 5.

Know ye not that ye are the temple of God. — 1 COR. 3 : 16.

BUILD thee more stately mansions, O my soul,
As the swift seasons roll!
Leave thy low-vaulted past!
Let each new temple, nobler than the last,
Shut thee from heaven with a dome more vast,
Till thou at length art free,
Leaving thine outgrown shell by life's unresting sea.

O. W. HOLMES.

We beseech Thee that every one of us may attempt to build up the world, by building so much of it as lies in our own character, in our own development. May we feel that it is ours to put one more fair stone on the walls of Jerusalem on earth. May we therefore become more conscientious and equitable, more pure and moral, more truthful and truth-loving; may we be clothed with love as with a garment; may we learn to discern Thy ways by a holy intuition.

June 7.

Our Great Friend.

I have called you friends. — JOHN 15 : 15.

IF any touch my friend, or his good name,
It is my honor and my love to free His blasted fame
From the least spot or thought of blame.
I could not use a friend as I use Thee.

HERBERT.

Dear Lord, who hast honored Thine unworthy servants with so high a title, grant that we, learning from our hallowed earthly bonds, the duties of loving friends, may realize how ungrateful we have been towards Thee, the first, the best, the only Friend, and repenting, turn with loving hearts to Thee.

June 8.

Judgments.

Therefore thou art inexcusable, O man, whosoever thou art, that judgest. — ROM. 2 : 1.

HOW shall we guess the whole, who can only guess a part?
How can we read the life, when we cannot spell the heart?
How shall we measure another, we who can never know,
From the juttings above the surface, the depth of the vein below.

F. R. HAVERGAL.

O Lord, suffer me not to judge according to the sight of my bodily eyes, nor to form my opinions according to the hearing of the ears of foolish men; but to have a true and just discernment.

June 9.

Our Charge.

Be thou an example of the believers, in word, in conversation, in charity, in spirit, in faith, in purity. — 1 TIM. 4 : 12.

BRIEFLY, do as thou would'st be done unto,
Love God, and love thy neighbor; watch and pray.
These are the words and works of life; this do
And live; who doth not thus, hath lost heaven's way.

VAUGHAN.

I entreat Thee, O Lord, to work in me all those qualifications of the Christian temper which may render it peculiarly acceptable to Thee, and may prove ornamental to my profession in the world. Renew, I beseech Thee, a right spirit within me, make me an Israelite indeed, in whom is allowed no guile.

June 10.

Fruitfulness.

Being fruitful in every good work. — COL. 1 : 10.

So should we live, that every hour
Should die, as dies a natural flower —

A self-reviving thing of power;
That every thought and every deed
May hold within itself the seed
Of future good and future need.

LORD HOUGHTON.

O Lord, grant unto us the fruitfulness of thought, grant unto us the power of the higher nature in things intellectual and moral, that we may be a light to those who are in darkness. And everywhere that we go, may there be that courage, that good cheer, that bountifulness, that patience, that gentleness, that fortitude in suffering, that abundance in good works in every way which shall make men behold our Lord and Master in us.

June 11.

Prayer for Instruction.

The earth, O Lord, is full of thy mercy: teach me thy statutes. — Ps. 119 : 64.

O FATHER-EYE, that hath so truly watched,
O Father-hand, that hath so gently led,
O Father-heart, that by my prayer is touched,
That loved me first when I was cold and dead.
Still do Thou lead me on with faithful care,
The narrow path to heaven where I would go,
And train me for the life that waits me there,
Alike through love and loss, through weal and woe.

SPITTA.

Teach me, O Lord, the way of Thy statutes.
Give me understanding. Make me to go in the path of Thy Commandment.
Incline my heart unto Thy testimonies.
Quicken me in Thy righteousness.

June 12.

The Day's Duty.

Ever follow that which is good, both among yourselves, and to all men. — 1 THESS. 5 : 15.

To keep my troth unshaken,
Though others may deceive;
To give with willing pleasure;
Or still with joy receive;
To bring the mourner comfort,
To wipe sad tears away;
To help the timid doubter —
This is my work to-day.

Give me grace to love my neighbor as myself. . . . to hate all lying, fraud and wrong. Give me a tender conscience, a meek and quiet spirit, a charitable, a humble, and a contented mind.

June 13.

Love.

And though I have the gift of prophecy, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge; and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, and have not charity, I am nothing. — 1 COR. 13 : 2.

SCIENCE, with her keen-eyed glance,
All the wisdom of the world,
Mysteries that the soul entrance,
Faith that mighty hills had hurled
From their ancient feats; — all this
Wherein man takes most his pride,
Valueless is cast aside,
If the spirit there we miss
That can work from love alone,
Not from pride in what is known.

ERNEST LANGE.

Good Jesus, make us to love Thee, each other in Thee,
And meet before Thee, to dwell in Thine everlasting love.

June 14.

Work.

We exhort . . . that with quietness they work, and eat their own bread. — 2 THES. 3 : 12.

WORK may be drudgery; it is so only
When we leave God out of the task he gives,
Or choose our own apart from Him — a lonely
Treadmill of selfishness, where no joy lives.

Teach us, O our God, that we may do even the humblest work with a high regard, and thus sanctify it, and make ourselves more fit to be the children of an ever-working God.

June 15.

Confidence.

Let all those that put their trust in thee rejoice. — Ps. 5 : 11.

LEAVE God to order all thy ways,
And trust in Him whate'er betide;
Thou'lt find Him in the evil days
Thine all sufficient help and guide.
Who trusts in God's unchanging love,
Builds on a rock that naught can move.

GEORGE NEUMARK.

O God, who never failest to help and govern them whom Thou dost bring up in Thy steadfast fear and love; grant, I pray Thee, that I may lean only on the hope of Thy heavenly grace, and in all my troubles put my whole trust and confidence in Thy mercy, casting all my care upon Thee, and being careful for nothing but to keep Thy testimonies, and to think upon Thy commandments to do them.

June 16.

More Faith.

Lord I believe: help thou mine unbelief. — MARK 9 : 24.

I STRETCH lame hands of faith, and grope
And gather dust and chaff, and call
To what I feel is Lord of all,
And faintly trust the larger hope.

TENNYSON.

I beseech Thee, Lord, teach me to seek Thee, and show Thyself to the seeker; because I can neither seek Thee, unless Thou teach me, nor find Thee, unless Thou show Thyself to me; let me seek Thee in desiring Thee, and desire Thee in seeking Thee; let me find Thee in loving Thee, and love Thee in finding Thee.

June 17.

God's Requirement.

Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man. — ECCL. 12 : 13.

WHAT asks our Father of His children, save
Justice and mercy and humility,
A reasonable service of good deeds,
Pure living, tenderness to human needs,
Reverence and trust, and prayer for light to see,
The Master's footprints in our daily ways?

Make me to walk in Thy ways. Give me the strength to do that which is righteous in Thy sight.

June 18.

Death is Life.

God is not the God of the dead, but of the living. — MATT. 22 : 32.

THEY are not lost; they are within the door
That shuts out loss and every hurtful thing,

With angels bright and loved ones gone before,
In their Redeemer's presence evermore,
And God Himself, their Lord, and Judge, and King.

O give us the Christian's faith and hope, that we may discern beyond the planting, and see what is the resurrection, the joy and the glory of that which is beyond.

June 19.

The Test.

By their fruits ye shall know them. — MATT. 7 : 20.

CALL him not heretic whose works attest
His faith in goodness by no creed confessed,
Whatever in love's name is truly done
To free the bound, and lift the fallen one,
Is done to Christ. Whoso in deed and word
Is not against Him, labors for our Lord.

WHITTIER.

O Father, increase in me the spirit of true charity, enable me to love all goodness, wherever found, knowing that goodness can come nowhere but from Thee.

June 20.

The Almightiness of God.

The Lord thy God in the midst of thee is mighty: he will save, he will rejoice over thee with joy, he will rest in his love, he will joy over thee with singing. — ZEPH. 3 : 17.

O LITTLE heart of mine! shall pain
Or sorrow make thee moan,
When all this God is all for thee,
A Father all thine own.

FABER.

Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honor, and power, for Thou hast created all things, and for Thy pleasure they are and were created. Great and marvellous are Thy works, O Lord God Almighty: just and true are Thy ways, Thou King of saints. Thy wisdom is infinite, Thy mercies are glorious, and I am not worthy, O Lord, to appear in Thy presence, before whom the angels hide their faces.

June 21.

'Do the Next Thing."

Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do it with thy might. — ECCL. 9 : 10.

Do it immediately,
Do it with prayer,
Do it reliantly,
Casting off care.
Do it with reverence,
Tracing His hand
Who hath placed it before thee
With earnest command.
Stayed on omnipotence,
Safe 'neath His wing,
Leave all resultings —
"Doe ye nexte thynge."

Help us, Lord, to be vigilant in the discerning of our duty.
Help us to have strength for its performance.

June 22.

Idolatry.

My dearly beloved, flee from idolatry. — 1 COR. 10 : 14.

To own a God who does not speak to men,
Is first to own, and then disown again;
Of all idolatry, the total sum
Is having gods that are both deaf and dumb.
BYRON.

Lord, save me from this sin. Let me never doubt that Thou art the Creator of all things, and that Thou delightest to bless, to strengthen, to perfect the works of Thy hand. Deepen my faith in Thee as a living, loving, ever-present God. *Amen.*

June 23.

Our Source of Strength.

The Lord is my rock, and my fortress, and my deliverer; my God, my strength, in whom I will trust; my buckler, and the horn of my salvation, and my high tower. — PS. 18 : 2.

A MIGHTY fortress is our God,
A bulwark never failing;
Our Helper He, amid the flood
Of mortal ills prevailing.

For still our ancient foe
Doth seek to work his woe;
His craft and power are great,
And armed with cruel hate,
On earth is not his equal.

LUTHER.

In our weakness, O God, we fly to Thee for strength — help us, save us, and fortify us for battle. Grant us the victory against the power and the craftiness of sin.

June 24.

Spiritual Life.

To be spiritually minded is life and peace. — ROM. 8 : 6.

HE liveth long who liveth well!
All other life is short and vain;
He liveth longest who can tell
Of living most for heavenly gain.

BONAR.

Take from me all evil imaginations; all impurity of thought; all envy, pride and hypocrisy; all falsehood, deceit, and an irregular life; all covetousness, vainglory and sloth; all malice, anger and wrath; all remembrance of injuries; everything that is contrary to Thy will, O most holy God.

June 25.

Gentleness.

Be ye kind one to another, tender-hearted, forgiving one another. — EPH. 4 : 32.

TEACH me to live ! with kindly words for all;
Wearing no cold, repulsive brow of gloom ;
Waiting with cheerful patience, till Thy call
Summon my spirit to her heavenly home.

PARISH VISITOR.

Lord, make me this day to be kind to my fellow-men, to be gentle and unselfish, careful to hurt no one by word or deed, but anxious to do good to all, and to make others happy.

June 26.

Fortitude.

Endure hardness, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ. —2 TIM. 2 : 3.

I WANT a sober mind,
A self-renouncing will
That tramples down, and casts behind
The baits of pleasing ill.
A soul inured to pain,
To hardship, grief and loss —
Bold to take up, firm to sustain,
The consecrated cross.

CHARLES WESLEY.

Be with me, Lord, and help me. Let me overcome love of pleasure by self-denial, love of money by freely giving, heat of temper by gentleness, lukewarmness by earnestness.

June 27.

Daily Sacrifice.

And they brought yet unto him free offerings every morning. — Ex. 36 : 3.

Come, my soul, awake, 'tis morning,
Day is dawning
O'er the earth, arise and pray;
Come to Him who made this splendor,
Thou must render
All thy feeble powers can pay.

Bid Him bless what thou art doing
If pursuing
Some good aim ; but if there lurks
Ill intent in thine endeavor,
May He ever
Thwart and turn thee from thy works.

Von Canitz.

Look mercifully, O Lord, on the morning prayers of Thy suppliants, and enlighten with Thy healing goodness the secrets of our heart; that no dark desires may have possession of those whom the light of heavenly grace has renewed ; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

June 28.

Holiness.

Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me. — Ps. 51 : 10.

More holiness give me,
More sweetness within,
More patience in suffering,
More sorrow for sin.
More faith in my Saviour,
More sense of His care;
More joy in His service,
More purpose in prayer.

Sanctify, O Lord, our souls and bodies and spirits, and touch our apprehensions, and search out our consciences, and cast out of us every evil thought, every base desire, all envy and pride and hypocrisy, all falsehood, all deceit, all worldly anxiety, all covetousness, vainglory and sloth, all malice, all wrath, all anger, all remembrance of injuries, all blasphemy, and every motion of the flesh and spirit that is contrary to Thy holy will.

June 29.

Service.

Serve him with a perfect heart and with a willing mind. — 1 Chron. 28 : 9.

So nigh to grandeur is our dust,
So nigh to God is man,
When Duty whispers low "Thou must,"
The soul replies "I can."

When our duty seems burdensome to us, O Lord, no less than when it is pleasant, help us to so strengthen our wills, that we may not only perform it according to the best of our ability, but that we may do so willingly and gladly, and with a perfect mind.

June 30.

Eternity.

The gift of God is eternal life. — ROM. 6 : 23.

ETERNITY! Eternity!
How long art thou, eternity!
They who lived poor and naked, rest
With God, for ever rich and blest,
And love and praise the Highest Good
In perfect bliss and gladsome mood.
Ponder, O man, Eternity!

WÜLFFER.

O Lord, make us fit to live in thine Eternity.

July 1.

Walking with God.

I have set the Lord always before me. — Ps. 16 : 8.

I LEAVE Thee not; Thy word my way shall brighten;
With Thee I go
Through weal and woe,
Thy precept wise shall ever burden lighten.

My Lord, on Thee I hang,
Nor heed the journey's pang,
Though thorny be my lot;
Let but Thy word enlighten,
I leave Thee not, I leave Thee not.
WOLFGANG CHRISTOPH DESSLER.

O Lord, who hast suffered, who hast been tempted, who hast felt all that a human heart can feel of sinless grief and pain, Thou art my Refuge, my Comfort, and my Helper. To Thee I fly, near Thee I would abide.

July 2.

Walking with God.

I have set the Lord always before me. — Ps. 16 : 8.

I LEAVE Thee not, even in the lap of pleasure;
For, when I stray
Without Thy ray,
My richest joy must cease to be a treasure.
I shudder at the glee,
When no delight from Thee
Has heartfelt peace begot:
Even in the lap of pleasure,
I leave Thee not, I leave Thee not.
WOLFGANG CHRISTOPH DESSLER.

O Thou source of all pure joys, Thou maker of sunshine, and beauty, and gladness, help me to realize that Thy father-heart rejoices in my happiness, and to cling closer and ever closer to Thee in love and gratitude.

July 3.

Our Unfailing Helper.

For in thee, O Lord, do I hope: thou wilt hear, O Lord, my God. — Ps. 38 : 15.

Do many troubles press? Thou canst resolve
The doubts or dangers such concerns involve.
Are those I love the cause of anxious care?
Thou canst unbind the burdens they may bear.

Wisdom hast Thou, O Lord, tender pity for all who suffer, strength and power to assist. May I ever choose Thee as my counsellor, fly to Thee for comfort, and rely upon Thee to help me in the time of need.

July 4.

Our King.

He hath not dealt so with any nation. — Ps. 147 : 20.

O God, amen! We thank Thee for the grace —
The glory of the grace that on this land
Has beamed in sunshine from Thy smiling face,
And streamed in bounty from Thine open hand.

O Lord, save Thy people, and bless Thine heritage.
Govern them, and lift them up forever.

July 5.

Quietness of Soul.

Godliness with contentment is great gain. — 1 TIM. 6 : 6.

SAVE me alike from foolish pride
Or impious discontent,
At aught Thy wisdom has denied,
Or aught Thy goodness lent.

POPE.

Vouchsafe us, O Lord, Thy heavenly grace, that we may learn, in whatever state we are, therewith to be content: may we so learn to do and endure Thy will, that at length through the discipline here undergone, we may be fitted for Thy heavenly kingdom, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

July 6.

God's Will.

Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven. — MATT. 6 : 10.

THE child who prays in faith "Thy will be done,"
Is blended with that Will Supreme which moves
A wilderness of worlds by Thought untrod;
He shares the starry sceptre and the throne.

DE VERE.

I dare not ask either crosses or comforts; I only present myself before Thee. I open my

heart to Thee. Behold my wants, which I myself am ignorant of: but do Thou behold, and do according to Thy mercy. I abandon myself to Thee. I have no more any desire but to accomplish Thy will. Lord, teach me how to pray.

July 7.

Power of Words.

Behold, how great a matter a little fire kindleth! — JAMES 3 : 5.

ONLY one little word;
But it stirred the depths of a living heart,
And there, through the years and the changes of life,
With its blessing and glory, its darkness and strife,
The *soul* of that little word shall abide
And nevermore depart.

Put away from me all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and evil speaking, with all malice; and grant that in honor preferring others, I may walk in love, even as Thou, Lord, lovedst me. *Amen.*

July 8.

Bounties to be Shared.

There is that scattereth, and yet increaseth; and there is that withholdeth more than is meet, but it tendeth to poverty. — PROV. 11 : 24.

Is thy cruse of comfort failing?
Rise and share it with another,
And through all the years of famine
It shall serve thee and thy brother.
Love divine will fill thy storehouse,
Or thy handful still renew;
Scanty fare for one will often
Make a royal feast for two.

ELIZABETH RUNALE CHARLES.

O Father, who of Thy great love to us art always giving us richly of all things to enjoy, grant that I may have the giving heart, which loves to share with others, not only the material things of life, but all comfort, happiness, wisdom, and knowledge.

July 9.

Prayer for Guidance.

Thou art my rock and my fortress: therefore for thy name's sake lead me, and guide me. — Ps. 31 : 3.

IF dangers gather round,
Still keep me calm and fearless:
Help me to bear the cross
When life is dark and cheerless;
To overcome my foe
With words and actions kind;
When counsel I would know,
Good Counsel let me find.

JOHANN HEERMANN.

Guide, strengthen and accept me, gracious Lord, in all my works and ways, for the sake of Thy son, our Saviour, Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

July 10.

God's Methods.

My doctrine shall drop as the rain, my speech shall distil as the dew, as the small rain upon the tender herb, and as the showers upon the grass. — DEUT. 32 : 2.

WE pray for growth and strength; grief's dreaded showers
May be, in God's wise purpose, ripening rain;
He only knows how all our highest powers
Are perfected in pain.

O Lord, I beseech Thee that I may grow more like unto Thee; yea, although the answer to my prayer can come only through pain and trial, loss and care, yet do I pray — make me like Thee, my Master and my Lord. *Amen.*

July 11.

Death is Life.

For he is not a God of the dead, but of the living: for all live unto him. — LUKE 20 : 38.

THERE is no Death — the stars go down
To rise upon some fairer shore;
And bright in heaven's jewelled crown
They shine for evermore.

There is no Death. An angel form
Walks o'er the earth with silent tread,
And bears our best loved things away
And then we call them dead.

Help me, O Lord, firmly to believe that mortality is swallowed up in life — and so to feel that those whom I have loved, and whom Thou hast in Thy wisdom taken from me, are not dead, but living in Thy presence.

July 12.

Approachableness of God.

Before they call, I will answer; and while they are yet speaking, I will hear. — Isa. 65 : 24.

Of what an easy, quick access,
My blessed Lord, art Thou! how suddenly
May our requests Thine ear invade!
To show that state dislikes not easiness,
If I but lift mine eyes, my suit is made:
Thou canst no more *not* hear than Thou canst die.

Herbert.

I will praise Thy name for Thy loving kindness and for Thy truth; for Thou hast magnified Thy word above all Thy name. In the day when I cried Thou answeredst me and strengthenedst me with strength in my soul.

July 13.

Generosity.

Give, and it shall be given unto you. — Luke 6 : 38.

For the heart grows rich in giving,
All its wealth is living grain,
Seeds which mildew in the garner,
Scattered, fill with gold the plain.

Mrs. Charles.

O Lord Jesus Christ, who, though Thou wast rich, yet for our sakes didst become poor, grant that all overeagerness and covetousness of earthly goods may die in us, and the desire of heavenly things may live and grow in us; keep us from all idle and vain expenses, that we may always have to give to him that needeth, and that giving not grudgingly, nor of necessity, but cheerfully, we may be made through Thy merits partakers of the riches of Thy heavenly treasure. *Amen.*

July 14.

Sorrow Needful.

Beloved, think it not strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you. —1 PET. 4 : 12.

WRUNG from the troubled spirit, in hard hours
Of weakness, solitude, perchance of pain,
Truth springs, like harvest from the well-ploughed field,
And the soul feels it has not wept in vain.

Let me never murmur, be dejected, or impatient, under any of the troubles of this life; but ever find rest and comfort in this: *this is the will of my Father and of my God:* grant this for Jesus Christ's sake. *Amen.*

July 15.

Loyalty.

For the Lord is our judge, the Lord is our lawgiver, the Lord is our king. — ISA. 33 : 22.

OH, take this heart that I would give
For ever to be all Thine own ;
I to myself no more would live ;
Come, Lord, be Thou my King alone.

Yes, take my heart, and in it rule,
Direct it as it pleases Thee ;
I will be silent in Thy school,
And learn whate'er Thou teachest me.

TERSTEEGEN.

Order my steps in Thy word : and let not any iniquity have dominion over me.

July 16.

Performance Better than Profession.

Be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves. — JAMES 1 : 22.

TALK not of feelings, and of frames
When duties round thee lie,
They are but empty sounds and names,
These a reality.

Waste not thy life in idle dreams
Of what thy life should be,
But live it — use it — for it teems
With tasks for thee and me.

MONSELL.

Self-contemplation, idleness, and false sentiment cast far from me, O Lord.

Activity, wisdom, patience and perseverance grant unto me, I beseech Thee.

July 17.

True Rest.

There remaineth therefore a rest to the people of God. . . Let us labor therefore to enter into that rest. — HEB. 4 : 9, 11.

REST is not quitting
This busy career;
Rest is the fitting
Of self to its sphere.

GOETHE.

From sloth, inactivity, indifference,
O Lord deliver us.
Into the rest of service and happiness,
O Lord admit us.

July 18.

Indecision.

He that wavereth is like a wave of the sea, driven with the wind and tossed. — JAMES 1 : 6.

WASTE not so much time in weighing
When and where thou shalt begin;
Too much thinking is delaying,
Rivets but the chain of sin.

He will help thee and provide thee
With a courage not thine own,
Bear thee in His arms and guide thee
Till thou learn'st to walk alone.

SPITTA.

Give me, O Lord, a mind prompt to decide, a heart fervent to love, a purpose not to be shaken, a perseverance never to be discouraged in Thy service.

July 19.

Death is Life.

Our Saviour Jesus Christ . . . hath abolished death, and hath brought life and immortality to light. — 2 TIM. 1 : 10.

I THINK that Death has two sides to it —
One sunny and one dark; as this round earth
Is every day half sunny and half dark,
We on the dark side call the mystery *Death;*
They on the other, looking down in light,
Wait the glad *Birth*, with other tears than ours.

GEORGE MACDONALD.

As men wait and watch for the morning through the weariness of the hours of the night, so may it be given us to long for our rest — to be homesick for heaven. Thus we beseech of Thee that we may be drawn toward Thee in spirit as well as in expectation, so that, at last, when the permission shall come, and the welcome angel shall appear to call us home, we may rise with great joy and seek our Father's house.

July 20.

The Holy Spirit.

Would God that all the Lord's people were prophets, and that the Lord would put his spirit upon them! — NUM. 11 : 29.

THOU art the Spirit of all love,
The Friend of kindly life,
Thou wouldst not that our hearts should prove
The pangs of wrath and strife.
Thou hatest hatred's withering reign,
In souls that discord maketh dark
Dost Thou rekindle love's bright spark,
And make them one again.

PAUL GERHARDT.

May the outpouring of the Holy Spirit, O Lord, cleanse our hearts, and make them fruitful with its plenteous dew; through our Lord Jesus Christ.

July 21.

Heartfelt Repentance.

For I desired mercy, and not sacrifice. — HOSEA 6 : 6.

'TIS not enough to weep my sins;
'Tis but one step to heaven :
When I am kind to others, then
I know myself forgiven.

FABER.

Give me a true and heartfelt repentance of my sins, O Holy Father, but save me from

morbid introspection and self-indulgent mourning. Enable me to forget self in honest and hearty endeavors after righteousness, and in merciful deeds towards my neighbor.

For Christ's sake. *Amen.*

July 22.

Our Maker.

Hath not the potter power over the clay? — ROM. 9 : 21.

AH! make me, Father, anything Thou wilt,
So be Thou will it, I am safe with Thee.
MACDONALD.

I recognize Thy will, O Lord, as fulfilled in the motions of the stars, in the order of the seasons, and in the events of life. Let that will be accomplished also in me; let it be my delight, let it sweeten every trial.

July 23.

Quietness of Spirit.

Be not, therefore, anxious for the morrow: for the morrow will be anxious for itself (Revised Ver.). — MATT. 6 : 34.

MUST my life go on thus to its closing?
Lord, hold fast this restless heart of mine;
Put Thy arm about me when I shiver,
Make me feel Thy presence all the way.

Hope and fear, and travail and reposing,
All by Thee are cared for, all are Thine,
Quick to help, sufficient to deliver,
Near in sun and shade, in night and day.

O most loving Father . . . preserve us from faithless fears and worldly anxieties, and grant that no clouds of this mortal life may hide from us the light of that Love which is immortal, and which Thou hast manifested unto us in Thy Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

July 24.

Our Refuge in Temptation.

For in that he himself hath suffered, being tempted, he is able to succor them that are tempted. — HEB. 2 : 18.

If aught should tempt my soul to stray
From heavenly wisdom's narrow way,
To fly the good I would pursue,
Or do the sin I would not do, —
Still He who felt temptation's power
Shall guard me in that dangerous hour.

SIR ROBERT GRANT.

Lead us not into temptation,
But deliver us from evil.

July 25.

The Fear of the Lord.

Ye that fear the Lord, bless the Lord. — Ps. 135 : 20.

O Thou art greatly to be feared
Thou art so prompt to bless!
The dread to miss such love as Thine
Makes fear but love's excess.

Faber.

Grant me, O Lord,
The fear which trembles at the thought of sin,
The terror of straying from Thy side,
The dread of forfeiting Thine approval,
The fear which is the essence of true love.

July 26.

Our Example.

It is enough for the disciple that he be as his master. — Matt. 10 : 25.

If wounded love my bosom swell,
Deceived by those I prized too well,
He shall His pitying aid bestow
Who felt on earth severer woe,
At once betrayed, denied, or fled,
By those who shared His daily bread.

Sir Robert Grant.

Good Jesus, who emptiedst Thyself for love of us,
Make me glad to be humbled, that I may be humble with Thee.

July 27.

Prayer.

I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills, from whence cometh my help. — Ps. 121 : 1.

'Tis like a narrow valley land,
This earthly way of mine;
Before me, clad in glory grand,
I see the hills divine—
Those heights the saintly long have trod—
The hills of Hope, the hills of God.

Both now and ever, vouchsafe to hear us, O Christ.
Graciously hear us, O Christ: graciously hear us, O Lord Christ.

July 28.

The Worthiest Ambition.

Thou, O man of God . . . follow after righteousness. — 1 Tim. 6 : 11.

Up, my soul! with clear sedateness
Read Heaven's law, writ bright and broad;
Up! a sacrifice to greatness,
Truth and goodness, — up to God.

Up to labor! from thee shaking
Off the bonds of sloth, be brave!
Give thyself to prayer and waking;
Toil some fainting heart to save!

Frederika Bremer.

Order my steps in Thy word, and so shall no wickedness have dominion over me. Lead me forth in Thy truth, and teach me; for Thou art the God of my salvation; in Thee hath been my hope all the day long.

July 29.

Well-doing.

To do good and to communicate forget not: for with such sacrifices God is well pleased. — HEB. 13 : 16.

COUNT that day lost
Whose low descending sun
Views from thy hand
No worthy action done.

Graciously guide us and rule in us, so that we may both know what we ought to do, and be strong to fulfill the same.

July 30.

Our Worth.

Ye are of more value than many sparrows. — MATT. 10 : 31.

Is thy path lonely? fear it not, for He
Who marks the sparrow's fall is guiding thee.
And not a star shines o'er thy head by night,
But He doth know that it will meet thy sight.
And not a joy can beautify thy lot
But tells thee still that thou art unforgot.

Nay, not a grief can darken, or surprise,
Dwell in thy heart, or dim with tears thine eyes,
But it is sent in mercy and in love
To bid thy helplessness seek strength above.

O God, who never failest to help and govern them whom Thou dost bring up in Thy steadfast fear and love; grant that . . . in all my troubles I may put my whole trust and confidence in Thy mercy, casting all my care upon Thee, and being careful for nothing but to keep Thy testimonies, and to think upon Thy commandments to do them.

July 31.

To God the Praise.

Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven. — MATT. 5 : 16.

CAST down thyself, and only strive to raise
The story of thy Master's sacred name:
Use all thy powers, that blessed Power to praise
Which gives the power to be and use the same.

SIR JOHN DAVIES.

For Thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory.

August 1.

Instructions of Nature.

Speak to the earth, and it shall teach thee. — JOB 12 : 8.

O EVER earnest earth !
Doing thy Maker's work,
Fulfilling His great will,
With all thy morns and evens ;
Teach me thy earnest ways,
That mine may be a life of steadfast work and praise.

BONAR.

Open Thou mine eyes, O Lord, that I may behold wondrous things out of Thy law — the law which Thou hast written in every blade, and leaf, and flower, in the rocks and the sand, and in every work of Thy hand. *Amen.*

August 2.

The Use of Suffering.

No chastening for the present seemeth to be joyous, but grievous : nevertheless, afterward it yieldeth the peaceable fruit of righteousness unto them which are exercised thereby. — HEB. 12 : 11.

How often one dead joy appears
The platform of some better hope !
And, let us own, the sharpest smart
Which human patience may endure,

Pays light for that which leaves the heart
More generous, dignified, and pure.
COVENTRY PATMORE.

O Lord, when Thou sendest to us the ladder of suffering, may we not lie beneath it, crushed and moaning; but seizing upon its rounds, may we mount upon them even unto Thy throne.

August 3.

The Wise Choice.

If thy right hand offend thee, cut it off, and cast it from thee. — MATT. 5 : 30.

WHEN inconsistent with the greater good,
Reason commands to cast the less away;
Thus life, with loss of wealth, is well preserved,
And virtue cheaply saved, with loss of life.

Grant us wisdom, Lord, to choose aright, and grant us courage, perseverance and self-denial, to the end that we may maintain our choice.
For Christ's sake. *Amen.*

August 4.

The Eternal Memory.

Yet will I not forget thee. — ISA. 49 : 15.

AH no! God ne'er forgets His own,
His heart is far too true,
He ever seeks their good alone,
His love is daily new:

And though thou deem that things go ill,
Yet He in all He doeth, still
Is holy, just and true.

PAUL GERHARDT.

Lord, Thou hast countless worlds to remember, yet Thou never forgettest me.

O Lord, I, the work of Thy hands, forget Thee continually. Pardon me, good Lord, and grant me true repentance.

August 3.

Reason of Our Being.

The Lord hath made all things for himself. — PROV. 16 : 4.

MADE for Thyself, O God !
Made for Thy love, Thy service, Thy delight,
Made to show forth Thy wisdom, grace and might ;
Made for Thy praise, whom veiled archangels laud ;
Oh strange and glorious thought, that we may be
A joy to Thee.

F. R. HAVERGAL.

Assist us to consecrate our whole being and existence to Thee, our understandings to the knowledge of Thy character, our hearts to the veneration and love of Thy perfections, our wills to the choice of Thy commands, our active energies to the accomplishment of Thy purposes, our lives to Thy glory, and every power to the imitation of Thy goodness.

August 6.

Christ All in All.

Looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith. — HEB. 12 : 2.

To Thee, O Jesus, I direct my eyes;
To Thee my hands, to Thee my humble knees;
To Thee my heart shall offer sacrifice;
To Thee my thoughts. Who my thoughts only see,
To Thee myself — myself and all I give;
To Thee I die, to Thee I only live.

RALEIGH.

I offer unto Thee, my God, my thoughts, that they may be towards Thee; my words, that they may be of Thee; my deeds, that they may be according to Thee; my sufferings, that they may be for Thee.

August 7.

God's Immutability.

I am the Lord, I change not. — MAL. 3 : 6.

IT fortifies my soul to know
That, though I perish, Truth is so,
That, howsoe'er I stray and range,
Whate'er I do, Thou dost not change.

I steadier step when I recall
That, if I slip, Thou dost not fall.

O God, who never changest, but abidest ever a firm Refuge to all who seek Thee, help me, Thy weak and wavering servant, that I may become fixed and established in faith, and in righteousness.

August 8.

The Hardest Duty.

Rest in the Lord, and wait patiently for him. — Ps. 37 : 7.

We can bear the heat of conflict,
Though the sudden, crushing blow,
Beating back our gathered forces,
For a moment lay us low.
We may rise again beneath it,
None the weaker for our fall;
But the waiting time, my brothers,
Is the hardest time of all.

Grant us patience, good Lord.

August 9.

Vigor.

Be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might. — Eph. 6 : 10.

Oh! let all the soul within you
For the truth's sake go abroad.
Strike! let every nerve and sinew
Tell on ages; tell for God.

Grant Thy servants, O God, to be set on fire with Thy spirit, strengthened by Thy power, illuminated by Thy splendor, filled with Thy grace, and to go forward by Thine aid. *Amen.*

August 10.

Liberty.

Ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free. — JOHN 8 : 32.

WHAT if in prison I must dwell?
May I not there converse with Thee?
Save me from sin, Thy wrath, and hell,
Call me Thy child and I am free.

BAXTER.

O Lord, who hast freed us by Thy truth,
Grant that we live no more as the slaves of sin.

August 11.

Poverty.

For ye know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that, though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, that ye through his poverty might be rich. — 2 COR. 8 : 9.

JESUS! the spacious world was Thine,
Yet, when Thou wouldst Thy head recline,
It scarce found room for Thee;
And oh! shall simple man be bent
On self-sought greatness, not content
With Christ-like poverty?

O God, our heavenly Father . . . keep me, I beseech Thee, under the protection of Thy good Providence, and teach me, in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content. Give me grace to forsake all covetous desires — through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

August 12.

Nearness of God.

Forsake me not, O Lord: O my God, be not far from me. — Ps. 38 : 21.

Oh say not thou art left of God,
Because His tokens in the sky
Thou canst not read; this earth He trod
To teach thee He was ever nigh.

Dr. Newman.

Good Lord, give me a firm, unshaken trust in Thee. Set my feet on the Rock, that I slip not backward. . . Henceforth, even for ever, I would trust Thee with my hopes and my fears, my present and my future, my time and my eternity; for myself and all whom Thou hast given me to love; in desolation as in consolation; when I fear that I am far from Thee, as when I fear that Thou art far from me.

August 13.

Sorrow Fruitful to Good.

We glory in tribulations also; knowing that tribulation worketh patience; and patience, experience; and experience, hope. — Rom. 5 : 3, 4.

ALIKE, all pleases well,
Since living faith hath made it understood,
Within the shadowy folds of sorrow dwell
The seeds of life and everlasting good.

THOS. C. UPHAM.

Grant, O Lord, that in my patience I may possess my soul: to that end may I often look upon the face of Christ thy Son, that as He hath suffered such terrible things in the flesh, I may endeavor to be armed with the same mind.

August 14.

Kindness

Strengthen ye the weak hands, and confirm the feeble knees. — ISA. 35 : 3.

LET us reach into our bosoms
For the key to other lives,
And with love towards erring nature,
Cherish good that still survives;
So, when our disrobed spirits
Soar to realms of light above,
We may say: "Dear Father, love us
E'en as we have shown our love."

Grant me this grace, good Lord. To be kind and do good to all men, and to overcome evil with good.

August 15.

Trustfulness.

Trust in the Lord with all thine heart. — PROV. 3 : 5.

WITH peaceful mind thy race of duty run,
God nothing does or suffers to be done,
But what Thou wouldst thyself, if Thou couldst see
Through all events of things as well as He.

Grant us, O Lord, we pray Thee, to trust in Thee with all our heart; seeing that as Thou dost always resist the proud who confide in their own strength, so Thou dost not forsake those who make their boast of Thy mercy; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

August 16.

The Lowest May Rise.

We are all as an unclean thing, and all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags. — ISA. 64 : 6.

BUT it exceeds man's thought, to think how high
God hath raised man, since God a man became;
The angels do admire this mystery,
And are astonished when they view the same.
SIR JOHN DAVIES.

Grant, O Most High, that I may this day and every day strive to approach the ideal which

Thou hast set before me. And as I am weak, even when I should be strong, O do Thou be with me to strengthen and uphold me.

August 17.

Individuality of Work.

To one is given, by the Spirit, the word of wisdom; to another the word of knowledge . . . to another faith . . . to another the gifts of healing . . . but all these worketh that one and the self-same Spirit, dividing to every man severally as he will. — 1 COR. 12 : 8, 9, 11.

IN God's great field of labor
All work is not the same;
He hath a service for each one
Who loves His holy name.

O Lord of all knowledge, all work and all gifts, save me from the sin of despising the work which Thou hast given me, or from envying the work of another, and enable me to be faithful and earnest in Thy service.

August 18.

Death a Blessing.

Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord from henceforth. — REV. 14 : 13.

I WOULD not live alway away from that world
Where the bark of life lies at the last;
Where the voyager's sails are for evermore furled,
Where the winds and the waves are past.

I would not live alway away from that shore
Where the stream of life flows when the storms
are all o'er.

DR. MUHLENBERG.

Grant that we may so live that when we are passing from this life the spirit within shall be mighty, and shall live again and forever in the light of God, in the love of Christ, in the sympathy of holiness. In the power of all that is true and noble in Thee may our souls find their life.

August 19.

The Honest Man.

An honest and good heart. — LUKE 8 : 15.

WHO is the honest man ?
He that doth still and strongly good pursue,
To God, his neighbor, and himself most true,
Whom neither force nor fawning can
Impair, or wrench from giving all their due.

HERBERT.

O God, who hast taught us that to obtain Thy love we must do unto others as we would they should do unto us; give me grace to cleanse my heart and hands from all fraud and wrong, that I may hurt nobody by word or deed, but be true and just in all my dealings ; that so, keeping innocency, and taking heed unto the thing that is right, I may have peace.

August 20.

The Patience of Christ.

Then saith he to Thomas, Reach hither thy finger, and behold my hands, and reach hither thy hand, and thrust it into my side: and be not faithless, but believing. — JOHN 20 : 27.

Is there on earth a spirit frail
  Who fears to take their word,
Scarce daring, through the twilight pale
  To think he sees the Lord?
With eyes too tremblingly awake
To bear with dimness for His sake?

* * * * *

For all thy rankling doubts so sore,
  Love thou thy Saviour still,
Him for thy Lord and God adore,
  And ever do His will.
Though vexing thoughts may seem to last,
Let not thy soul be quite o'ercast;
Soon will He show thee all his wounds, and say
"Long have I known thy name — know thou
  my face alway."

KEBLE.

O Lord, who didst not cast the doubter away from Thee with scorn, but didst convince him of Thy life — forgive my weakness and my doubting heart, and persuade me even against myself of Thine existence and Thy love.

August 21.

The Joy of Service.

Serve the Lord with gladness; come before His presence with singing. — Ps. 100 : 2.

HAPPILY, happily,
Pass I along,
Eager to work for Thee,
Earnest and strong.
Life is for service true,
Life is for battle, too;
Life is for song.

Hopefully, hopefully,
Onward I go,
Cheerfully, cheerfully,
Meet I the foe.
Crowns are awaiting us,
Glory prepared for us,
Joys overflow.

BONAR.

Grant, Lord, that I may ever keep my frowns for sin. My sunshine and my smiles for Thee.

August 22.

Continuance in Well-doing.

Watch thou in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, make full proof of thy ministry. — 2 TIM. 4 : 5.

PERFORM the work He gives to thee;
The "well done" welcome will be yours,

With the All-Father; only he
Is counted worthy who endures.

O Lord, our support and our refuge, deliver us from temptation, give us the defence of Thy salvation, hold us up with Thy right hand, teach us by Thy discipline, and make our way and our life undefiled.

August 23.

The Answer Sure.

Before they call, I will answer; and while they are yet speaking, I will hear. — Isa. 65 : 24.

Tell him that his very longing is itself an answering cry,
That his prayer, "Come gracious Allah!" is my answer, "Here am I!"
Every inmost aspiration is God's angel undefiled,
And in every "O my Father!" slumbers deep a "Here, my child."

Dscheladeddin.

Almighty and everlasting God, who art always more ready to hear than we to pray, and art wont to give more than we desire or deserve; pour down upon us the abundance of Thy mercy; forgiving us those things whereof our conscience is afraid, and giving us those good things which we are not worthy to ask, but through the merits and mediation of Jesus Christ, thy Son, our Lord. *Amen.*

August 24.

Persistence.

He that overcometh shall inherit all things. — Rev. 21 : 7.

Clinch thy difficulties fast
With a determined hand,
Until, in thy victorious grasp,
They crumble into sand.
He who overcomes at last
Will not mourn about the past.

Lady Teignmouth.

O how entirely necessary is Thy grace, Lord, to enable me to begin any good thing, to carry it on, to bring it to perfection! For without it I can do nothing: but I can do all things through Thy grace strengthening me.

August 25.

Our Treasury.

Whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap . . . in due season we shall reap, if we faint not. — Gal. 6 : 7, 9.

But each merciful oblation,
(Seed of pity, wisely sown,)
What we gave in self-negation,
We may safely call our own.
Thus of treasure freely given,
For the future we may hoard,
For the angels keep in Heaven
What is lent unto the Lord.

Help us, O Lord, ever to remember, that of all the good gifts of life to us Thou art the giver; and may we minister unto others of our abundance or of our little, in the spirit of Him who hath said it is more blessed to give than to receive. *Amen.*

August 26.

The Sleep.

So he giveth his beloved sleep. — Ps. 127 : 2.

And friends, dear friends — when it shall be
That this low breath is gone from me,
And round my bier ye come to weep,
Let one, most loving of you all,
Say, "Not a tear must o'er her fall —
He giveth His beloved sleep."

Mrs. Browning.

Father, comfort us in our troubles.
May we not sorrow as those who have no hope,
But fervently believe that them who sleep in
Jesus will God bring with Him.

August 27.

God's Omniscience.

When my spirit was overwhelmed within me, then thou knewest my path. — Ps. 142 : 3.

My God, whose gracious pity I may claim,
Calling Thee Father — sweet endearing name!
The sufferings of this weak and weary frame,
All, all are known to Thee.

Adelaide Newton.

O Thou knowest the path that I take. Thou who seest how full it is of snares and pitfalls, and how hard it is for my feet to walk therein without stumbling — be near me to guide and to guard me. Be my strength, O Father.

August 28.

God our Owner.

For whether we live, we live unto the Lord; and whether we die, we die unto the Lord: whether we live therefore, or die, we are the Lord's. — ROM. 14 : 8.

TEACH me, my Lord and King,
In all things Thee to see,
And what I do in anything,
To do it as for Thee.

HERBERT.

O direct my life towards Thy commandments,
hallow my soul,
purify my body,
correct my thoughts,
cleanse my desires,
soul and body, mind and spirit,
heart and reins.

August 29.

God's Knowledge of Us.

For there is not a word in my tongue, but, lo, O Lord, thou knowest it altogether. — Ps. 139 : 4.

THOU knowest all I am,
My evil and my shame;

And yet Thou hat'st me not;
Nor hast even once forgot
Thy handiwork divine,
This helpless soul of mine,
My ever loving Lord.

O Lord, I offer up to Thee all my sins and faults . . . that Thou mayst burn and consume them with the fire of Thy Love, and expunge all the spots of my sins, and cleanse my conscience from every fault, and restore to me Thy grace which I have lost by my transgressions, and freely forgive me all, and grant me Thy peace.

August 30.

Soul-hunger.

Give us this day our daily bread. — MATT. 6 : 11.

WE have no strength to walk unless Thou lead us;
Sin hides each side, the straight and narrow way;
Our hungry souls must faint, except Thou feed us,
Help us, we plead, to live aright to-day.

MRS. M. E. C. BATES.

O cleanse that which is sordid; bedew that which is dried up; heal that which is wounded; bend that which is stubborn; cherish in Thy bosom that which is cold; guide that which is wandering; O Lord hear our prayer, and let our cry come unto Thee.

August 31.

True Wisdom.

Grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. — 2 PET. 3 : 18.

To know the Christ of God,
The everlasting Son;
To know what He on earth
For guilty man has done:
This is the first and last
Of all that's true and wise;
The circle that contains all light
Beneath, above the skies.

BONAR.

Defend in me, I beseech Thee, the gifts of Thy loving-kindness, and daily increase what Thou hast deigned to grant; that Thou being my ruler, the passions of the flesh may more and more die in me, and the desire of the heavenly life increase and grow.

September 1.

The Harvest Sure.

Let us not be weary in well doing; for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not. — GAL. 6 : 9.

Sow love and taste its fruitage pure;
Sow peace and reap its harvest bright;
Sow sunbeams on the rock and moor,
And find a harvest home of light.

Lord, pardon all my misspent time, and make me more diligent and careful to redeem it for the time to come, that when I come to the end of my days, I may look back with comfort on the days that are past.

September 2.

Trust.

Though he slay me, yet will I trust in him. — Job 13 : 15.

For us — whatever's undergone,
Thou knowest, willest what is done.
Grief may be joy misunderstood;
Only the Good discerns the good;
I trust Thee while my days go on.

I praise Thee while my days go on;
I love Thee while my days go on;
Through dark and dearth, through fire and frost,
With emptied arms and treasure lost,
I thank Thee while my days go on.

E. B. Browning.

May I thank Thee, O God, my God, not with my lips only, but in my life, may all within me praise Thee . . . for humiliations, afflictions, crosses, sicknesses, and whatsoever else Thy fatherly love has sent to wean me from this world or to destroy my self-love.

September 3.

The Lord's Presence.

And, lo, I am with you alway. — MATT. 28 : 20.

YET the world is Thy field, Thy garden ;
On earth art Thou still at home,
When Thou bendest hither Thy hallowing eye,
My narrow workroom seems vast and high,
Its dingy ceiling and rainbow dome—
Stand ever thus at my wide swung door,
And toil will be toil no more.

LUCY LARCOM.

Abide with me, O Lord, for without Thee is no joy.
And make me worthy of Thy presence.

September 4.

Sincerity in Service.

Why call ye me, Lord, Lord, and do not the things which I say?—LUKE 6 : 46.

BE wise, and use thy wisdom well ;
Who wisdom *speaks* must live it, too ;
He is the wisest who can tell
How first he *lived*, then *spoke* the true.

BONAR.

Let it not be brought in judgment against me that I have heard Thy word but have not obeyed it, have known, but have not loved it, have believed, but have not kept it.

September 5.

Prayer for Help.

Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. — MATT. 6 : 13.

DEFEND my soul, O God!
For snares beset my road,
Thou art my help alone.
Deliver me from sin and fear,
Preserve me in my peril here,
O good and gracious One!

Grant, we beseech Thee, Almighty God, that pressing onwards in Thy way with devout minds, we may escape the snares of the sins that beset us; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

September 6.

Acceptable Service.

Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me. — MATT. 25 : 40.

SEAL not thy eyes up from the poor; but give
Proportion to their merits, and thy purse;
Thou may'st in rags a mighty prince relieve,
Who, when thy sins call for't, can fence a curse.
Thou shalt not lose one mite, though waters stray,
The bread we cast returns in fraughts one day.

VAUGHAN.

O grant that Thy spirit may touch us so that we may gladly give of our bread to them that

hunger, and our shelter to the Son of Man who has not where to lay his head.

September 7.

The Life.

I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no man cometh unto the Father, but by me. — JOHN 14 : 6.

IT is Thy life alone, alone Thy life
That saveth me;
And for that life of Thine, that saving life,
I come to Thee.

BONAR.

Penetrate, pierce, enlighten, kindle, transform all . . .
Kindle all which is cold, melt all which is hard;
Bind up all which is weak; steep in Thy love all which is dry;
That Thou living in me and I in Thee, my soul may melt away in Thy love;
And I changed into Thee, become one spirit with Thee.

September 8.

The Death which is Life.

Reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God. — ROM. 6 : 11.

LORD Jesus, let me daily die,
And at the last Thy presence give,

Then Death his utmost power may try,
He can but make me truly live.
Then welcome my last hour shall be,
When, where and how it pleases Thee.

S. FRANK.

Assist me, Lord, to slay anger, pride, self-love, covetousness, untruth, and every evil thing which forms a part of me. Oh nourish and cause to grow whatever in me is good; and plant new seeds of righteousness within me.

September 9.

Help of the Spirit.

Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us. — ROM. 8 : 26.

THE prayers I make will then be sweet indeed,
If Thou the spirit give by which I pray;
My unassisted heart is barren clay,
That of its native self can nothing feed,
Of good and pious works Thou art the seed,
That quickens only where Thou say'st it may.

MICHAEL ANGELO.

And grant us, O Lord, the Lover of Men, with freedom, without condemnation, with a pure heart and a contrite soul, without confusion of face and with sanctified lips, boldly to call upon Thee, our holy God and Father who art in Heaven.

September 10.

Confidence.

I will say of the Lord, He is my refuge, and my fortress: my God; in him will I trust. — Ps. 91 : 2.

I WILL trust in the Lord, through tempests of grief,
Though my heart and my soul may in vain seek relief;
Though by doubts and temptations beset on each side,
I will trust in the Lord, whatever betide.

I will trust in the Lord, though my courage may fail;
Though friends may forget me, and foes may assail;
Though hating and scorning, the world may deride,
I will trust in the Lord, whatever betide.

M. E. R.

May we take cloud or sunshine, storm or calm, sorrow or gladness; be able to bear affliction or prosperity — to be lifted up or to be cast down, to feel that we are as ships that cross the tempestuous deep, forever swaying and rocking, forever elevated and lowered by the conflicting waves, but safe through all storms.

September 11.

Growth.

Every branch that beareth fruit, he purgeth it, that it may bring forth more fruit. — JOHN 15 : 2.

DEEPEN all Thy work, O Master,
Strengthen every downward root,
Only do Thou ripen faster,
More and more, Thy pleasant fruit.
Purge me, prune me, self-abase,
Only let me grow in grace.

O Lord, may we be glad even at the ministry of trouble; may we lift up a joyful heart even when we suffer; and may we learn at last to come with that blessedness of resignation whereby we can say, "We rejoice in infirmities, and count it all joy when we fall into divers temptations."

September 12.

Love.

God is love. — 1 JOHN 4 : 16.

—— THEY only miss
The winning of that final bliss
Who will not count it true that love,
Blessing, not cursing, rules above,
And that in it we live and move.

TRENCH.

O God, who art Love, for the sake of the Son of Thy love,
Give me grace never more to sin against love.

September 13.

Heaven our Home.

For here have we no continuing city, but we seek one to come. — HEB. 13 : 14.

DEAR Son of God! by whom this world was made,
Yet, homeless, had not where to lay Thy head,
(Not e'en by kindred was Thy body laid
In Joseph's tomb, thou Lord of quick and dead,)
By Thy example led,
Of me may it be said,
When I shall rest, and peace begin,
"He lived as one who was a pilgrim here,
And found His home while dwelling in an inn."

A. D. F. RANDOLPH.

Grant us, O Lord, not to mind earthly things, but to love things heavenly; and even now, while we are placed among things that are passing away, to cleave to those that shall abide; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

September 14.

Tests.

My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations; knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience. — JAMES 1 : 2, 3.

ENDURE temptation — bravely bear;
This chastening shows a Father's care.

Guard well thy heart — 'twill end the strife,
The *tried* receive the crown of life.

J. R.

O Lord, deliver us from evil, let us not fall beneath the trials sent to test us, but grant that overcoming sin, and putting to flight the powers of darkness, we may arise strengthened by the battle, made more vigorous to endure, more courageous to withstand.

September 13.

Blinded Vision.

Some have entertained angels unawares. — HEB. 13 : 2.

ALAS! we think not what we daily see
About our hearths — angels that *are* to be
Or may be, if they will, and we prepare
Their souls and ours to meet in happy air,
A child, a friend, a wife whose soft heart sings
In unison with ours, breeding its future wings.

LEIGH HUNT.

Open our eyes, O Lord; may we be no longer blind, and hard of heart, but quick to discern, and swift to render reverence wherever dwells Thy spirit.

September 16.

Perseverance.

And let us not be weary in well doing. — GAL. 6 : 9.

MY soul, be still and strong;
Here on thy Lord's estate
No place is useless, no experience vain.
Work on ; Watch on ; and Wait !

O Lord, increase my strength, and give me grace to use it daily, for the promotion of Thy glory, and for the healthy development of my own soul, that, in Thy good time, I may be prepared for another and a better world.

September 17.

Neighborliness.

All the law is fulfilled in one word, even in this ; Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself. — GAL. 5 : 14.

WE go our ways in life too much alone ;
We hold ourselves too far from all our kind ;
Too often we are deaf to sigh or moan,
Too often to the weak and helpless, blind ;
Too often when distress and want abide,
We turn and pass upon the other side.

O pour into my heart that most excellent gift of charity, that very bond of peace and of all virtue, without which, whosoever liveth is counted dead before Thee.

September 18.

Our Pattern.

I have given you an example. — JOHN 13 : 15.

HOLY Jesus, Fount of light!
As crystal clear, forever bright,
Thou Stream o'er-flowing, pure and free;
The brightness of the cherubim,
The glow of burning seraphim,
Are darkness when compared with Thee.
Be Thou my pattern bright,
My study and delight,
My all in all.
Oh, teach Thou me, that I may be
All pure and holy, like to Thee.

CRASSELIUS.

Let me keep in mind, O Jesus, thy precept and example, by loving mine enemies, by patiently suffering wrong, by doing good to those that persecute me, by praying for those that falsely speak evil of me.

September 19.

Calmness of Mind.

Sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof. — MATT. 6 : 34.

TOUCHED with a sympathy for e'en such sorrow,
How sweet the sentence from His lips that fell:

Enough of ill, without our need to borrow,
Rests with each day. Then wisely leave to-
morrow
Ever with Him who doeth all things well.
Oh, to His heart thine every burden bear;
Fear not the future trusted to His care.

Grant me, O Lord, a spirit serene and trustful. Make me to be concerned with the duties of each day, and glad to leave the burdens of tomorrow to Thy loving care.

For Christ's sake. *Amen.*

September 20.

A Summons.

Awake to righteousness, and sin not. — 1 Cor. 15 : 34.

Wake, sluggish soul of mine!
So slow to break
The fond old dreams of long, long summer
bloom,
The dear deception of an earthly home;
Awake, awake!

O Heavenly Father, help me to cast off the works of darkness, and put on the armor of light.

September 21.

Action.

Watch ye, stand fast in the faith, quit you like men, be strong. — 1 COR. 16 : 13.

STILL hope! still act! Be sure that life,
The source and strength of every good,
Wastes down in feeling's empty strife,
And dies in dreaming's sickly mood.

To toil, in tasks however mean,
For all we know of right and true—
In this alone our worth is seen,
'Tis this we were ordained to do.

STERLING.

Give me a waking spirit and a diligent soul, that I may seek to know Thy will, and when I know it, may perform it faithfully, to the honor and glory of Thy ever blessed name. *Amen.*

September 22.

Reliance on God.

Though he slay me, yet will I trust in him. — JOB 13 : 15.

THIS, then, must be the medicine for my woes
To yield to what my Saviour shall dispose;
To glory in my baseness; to rejoice
In mine afflictions; to obey His voice,
As well when threatenings my defects reprove
As when I cherished am with words of love.

SIR JOHN BEAUMONT.

Yea, I thank Thee, O God, for all things; for afflictions as well as for benefits, for afflictions become benefits when Thou bestowest them.

September 23.

Our Source of Life.

He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing. — JOHN 15 : 5.

THOU fain wouldst heart and soul to Thee incline,
Take me from myself, and make me Thine;
Thou art the Vine and I the branch, oh grant
I may grow in Thee a living plant:
Kyrie Eleison!
For naught but sins I find in me,
Yet are they done away in Thee:
Mine are anguish, fear, unrest,
But in Thee, Lord, I am blest,
Kyrie Eleison!

JOHANN HEERMANN.

O Christ, our Master, let our souls always desire Thee, and seek Thee, and find Thee! Be Thou in all our thoughts, our words, our actions, that being sanctified by Thee here, we may be glorified with Thee hereafter. *Amen.*

September 24.

Death.

He shall enter into peace. —Isa. 57 : 2.

How pleasant are thy paths, O Death!
Thither when sorrows cease,
To a new life, to an old past,
Softly and silently we haste,
Into a land of peace.

May all our desires take on the pattern of the future life. And chastened, moderated, made more earnest, industrious and faithful, may we so build, that when we leave this world something shall remain here for others as a foundation on which to build.

September 25.

Prayer for Faith.

Lord, I believe: help thou mine unbelief. — Mark 9 : 24.

Enlighten with faith's light my heart,
Inflame it with love's fire;
Then shall I sing and bear a part
With that celestial choir.
I shall, I fear, be dark and cold
With all my fire and light,
Yet when Thou dost accept their gold
Lord, treasure up my mite.

John Mason.

Let me be strong in faith, giving glory to Thee, and having a full persuasion that Thou

wilt perform all that Thou hast promised. O help me to count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus, my Lord.

September 26.

The Worst Loss.

For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? — MATT. 16: 26.

A SADDER sight than eye can know,
Than proud bark lost, or seaman's woe,
Than prey-bird's shriek or tempest cloud,
Or battle fire, or ocean shroud —
The shipwreck of the soul.

From all blindness of heart; from pride, vainglory and hypocrisy, from envy, hatred and malice, and all uncharitableness; from all inordinate and sinful affections; and from all the deceits of the world, the flesh, and the devil,
Good Lord, deliver us.

September 27.

The Final Result.

We know that all things work together for good to them that love God. — ROM. 8 : 28.

NO ill can thee betide;
Life's shadiest mood
Brightens to sunshine in love's genial ray;
And sorrow's slowest clouds dissolve in day;
All ill is good.

Grant, O my God, that neither the joy nor the sorrow of this period shall have visited my heart in vain. Make me wise and strong to the performance of immediate duties, and ripen me by what means Thou seest best for the performance of those that lie beyond.

September 28.

Our Just God.

Touching the Almighty . . . he is excellent in power, and in judgment, and in plenty of justice. — JOB 37 : 23.

THERE'S only One who knows the truth
Amidst the world's deceit and lies;
There's only One who views each case
With just, unselfish, candid eyes.

To Thee, O God, do we bring ourselves, our sins, our many blunders, and our weakness; our trials, our perplexities and cares, knowing that in Thee we shall find a judge incorruptible, yet plenteous in mercy and loving kindness.

September 29.

Valor.

Be strong and of a good courage; be not afraid, neither be thou dismayed. — JOSH. 1 : 9.

MOVE on, and murmur not; a warrior thou;
Is this a day for idle tears and sighs?
Buckle thine armor, grasp thy sword and bow,
Fight the good fight of faith and win the prize.

May we be more brave of heart; may we be more brave in our affections. Take away from us all effiminacy of taste and all effiminacy of love, and all things that shall make us shrink from the battles of life or from any of its experiences. Give us that robustness, that strength, that patience and that endurance by which we shall be able to carry our daily experience with great cheerfulness and gladness.

September 30.

Prayer for Grace.

Ask, and it shall be given you. — MATT. 7 : 7.

WHAT shall I ask? 'Tis for Thy grace, my Lord,
For daily grace as well as daily bread.
Feed me, O Christ, according to Thy word,
Till this soul hunger is forever fled.

MRS. A. W. COOKE.

O Lord, I pray Thee that Thy grace may always prevent and follow me, and make me continually to be given to all good works; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

October 1.

Improvement of Time.

Walk in wisdom toward them that are without, redeeming the time. — COL. 4 : 5.

WASTE not thy being; back to Him
Who freely gave it, freely give,
Else is that being but a dream,
'Tis but to *be*, and not to *live*.

Come Thou, and dwell in my heart this day. Drive out every intruder, and take full possession Thyself. Make this the best and happiest day that I have ever spent.

October 2.

The Testimony of Nature.

The heavens declare the glory of God, and the firmament showeth his handiwork. — Ps. 19 : 1.

WHEN seasons change, then lay before thine eye
His wondrous method; mark the various scenes
In heav'n; hail, thunder, rainbow, snow and ice,
Calms, tempests, light and darkness by His means,
Thou canst not miss His praise; each tree, herb, flower,
Are shadows of His wisdom and His pow'r.

VAUGHAN.

Give me eyes that see, ears that hear, and a heart that pondereth all Thy ways — O Thou most High.

October 3.

Afflictions.

Beloved, think it not strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened unto you.—1 PET. 4 : 12.

COMPLAIN not of thy life! — for what art thou
More than thy fellows that thou shouldst not weep?
Brave thoughts still lodge beneath a furrowed brow,
And the way-wearied have the sweetest sleep.
F. A. KEMBLE.

We beseech of Thee, that we may not feel that Thou art harsh in Thine administration toward us when Thou sendest burdens. May we believe that they are sent for wise purposes. When Thou sendest afflictions and bereavements, may we understand the way of God toward us . . . May we feel, that like our Captain, we are to be made perfect through suffering.

October 4.

Righteousness.

Now the God of peace . . . make you perfect in every good work to do his will, working in you that which is well pleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ. — HEB. 13 : 20, 21.

O HOLY Fyre, and comforth most swete,
Fyll our hertes with fayth and boldnesse,
To abyde by Thee in cold and hete,
Content to suffre for ryghteousnesse;
O Lorde, geve strength to our weaknesse,
And send us helpe every houre,
That we may overcome all wyckednesse
And brynge this olde Adam under Thy power.
LUTHER.

Help us, O Lord, to grow in grace and in the knowledge of Thee.

October 5.

God's Holiness.

Thou art of purer eyes than to behold evil, and canst not look on iniquity.—HAB. 1 : 13.

THOU art holy, enterest in
Where pure hearts Thy coming wait,
But Thou fleest shame and sin,
Craft and falsehood Thou dost hate ;
Wash me then, O Well of grace,
Every stain and spot efface,
Let me flee what Thou dost flee,
Grant me what Thou lov'st to see.

PAUL GERHARDT.

Make us, O Lord, to flourish like pure lilies in the courts of Thine house, and to show forth to the faithful the fragrance of good works and the example of a godly life.

October 6.

Serenity.

In quietness and in confidence shall be your strength — ISA. 30 : 15.

THE will to neither strive nor cry,
The power to feel with others give ;
Calm, calm me more, nor let me die
Before I have begun to live.

If I walk through the water, let me walk with
Thee;
And let Thy Presence hush me, still me, make a
great calm within me,
That I may be wholly hushed in myself, wholly
reflect Thee.

October 7.

The Lord's Sympathy.

He knoweth the way that I take.—Job 23 : 10.

When in despair, no earthly comfort heeding,
My spirit prostrate lies, all crushed and bleeding
From cruel blows,
Soothed is each shattered, throbbing nerve of
feeling,
Touched by this thought, as by a hand of healing—
"God knows, God knows."

F. J. Pomeroy.

Thou, O merciful Father, knowest our sufferings, our sorrows, our tears: look upon us and succor us, for of ourselves we could not bear Thy chastisement. Make us to be conformed unto Thy will, for the sake of Jesus, our compassionate Saviour.

October 8.

Prayer.

Men ought always to pray, and not to faint. — LUKE 18 : 1.

BE not afraid to pray — to pray is right,
Pray, if thou canst, with hope; but ever pray,
Though hope be weak, or sick with long delay;
Pray in the darkness, if there be no light.
. . . Pray to be perfect, though material leaven
Forbid the spirit so on earth to be;
But if for any wish thou dar'st not pray,
Then pray to God to cast that wish away.

COLERIDGE.

O Lord, our God, who alone foreseest and bestowest things needful for our salvation, do Thou both bestow, we pray Thee, on our souls the hearty desire of imploring Thy mercy, and graciously vouchsafe us what will be for our good; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

October 9.

The Conflict.

Fight the good fight of faith. — 1 TIM. 6 : 12.

WHAT is life, father?
A battle, my child,
Where the strongest lance may fall,
Where the weariest eyes may be beguiled,
And the stoutest heart may quail.

Where foes are gathered on every hand,
And rest not day or night,
And the feeble little one must stand
In the thickest of the fight.

O God of Might, who dost ever strengthen the hands of those who fight in a good cause, help us, we pray Thee, in the war against unrighteousness. Grant that we falter not, nor yield; grant to us courage, and persistence, and that we may defeat the powers of evil. For Thy great Name's sake. *Amen.*

October 10.

Unsatisfying Treasures.

A man's life consisteth not in the abundance of the things which he possesseth. — LUKE 12 : 15.

GOLD is not life or love,
It is not rest or joy;
It withers up the heart,
It shrivels up the soul;
It filleth coffers, hearts it cannot fill.

BONAR.

Deliver me from all dependence upon creature consolations, for no created thing can satisfy my wants and give me rest. Join me to Thyself by an inseparable bond of love, for Thou alone art sufficient for him who truly loves Thee, and without Thee all things are vain.

October 11.

Our Lost Ones.

But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope. For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him.—1 THESS. 4 : 13, 14.

BRIEF is the space that from our loved divides us,
Thin is the mist that from their haven hides us;
Soft hands on high are beckoning signals holding,
White arms wait patient for our heart's enfolding.

Lord, I believe that this is truth — yet is my faith oftentimes but weak. Help Thou mine unbelief, O Master. Grant me the courage to work on in patience, knowing that those whom I so loved, and whom Thou hast taken to Thyself, are safe in Thy keeping, and are not lost to me.

For thine Eternity's sake. *Amen.*

October 12.

The Heart.

Let us draw near with a true heart. — HEB. 10 : 22.

A HUMBLE, lowly, contrite heart,
Believing, true and clean;
Which neither life nor death can part
From Him that dwells within:

A heart in every thought renewed,
And full of love divine;
Perfect and right, and pure and good,
A copy, Lord, of Thine.

CHARLES WESLEY.

Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me.

October 13.

The Time to Pray.

To everything there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven.—ECCL. 3 : 1.

WHEN thy life is growing bright,
With success, or with love's light,
Then's the very time to clasp
His dear hand with closer grasp,
And with tender fear to pray,
"Keep my heart, Lord, lest it stray."

O loving Father, may I not wait until the storms of life have driven me into the harbor of Thy love, but may I rather come to Thee now in the time of my prosperity — to Thee who art the Author of all my joys.

October 14.

Waiting on God.

My times are in thy hand. — PS. 31 : 15.

FATHER, I know that all my life
Is portioned out for me;

And the changes that are sure to come,
I do not fear to see;
But I ask Thee for a present mind
Intent on pleasing Thee.

MISS WARING.

Thou alone knowest what is good for me; Thou art Lord of all; do, therefore, what seemeth Thee best. Give to me or take from me; conform my will to Thine!

October 15.

Justice of God.

Just and true are thy ways, thou king of saints. — REV. 15 : 3.

WHATE'ER my God ordains is right,
His will is ever just;
Howe'er He orders now my cause
I will be still and trust.
He is my God.
Though dark my road,
He holds me that I shall not fall
Wherefore to Him I leave it all.

S. RODIGAST.

Thou only, O Lord, art just; Thou only art holy; wherefore in Thee shall be my confidence, and in Thee will I evermore rejoice.

October 16.

True Rest.

And in that day there shall be a root of Jesse. and his rest shall be glorious. — Isa. 11 : 10.

We plan, and struggle, and toil for earth,
With selfish burdens prest;
But when we have ceased from our own works, then,
Ah, then, we have found our rest.

O Thou who art taking Thy rest in watchfulness and care over us, in love and guidance, grant that we may enter into the spirit of that rest, and ever shun the rest of inaction, which tendeth to weariness of soul.

October 17.

Firmness.

Watch ye, stand fast in the faith, quit you like men, be strong. —1 Cor. 16 : 13.

Cast every weight aside!
Do battle with each sin;
Fight with the faithless world without,
The faithless heart within.

O God, enable me by Thy grace to fight the good fight — to continue faithful unto death, that I may at length receive the crown of life.

October 18.

Patience and Hope.

It is good that a man should both hope and quietly wait for the salvation of the Lord.—LAM. 3 : 26.

LEARN to wait — hope's slow fruition;
Faint not, though the way seems long;
There is joy in each condition,
Hearts, through suffering, may grow strong.

Help us, O Lord, to the attainment of that patience which sits not with folded hands awaiting consummation of hopes, but which ever works in calm trustfulness, leaving all results to Thee.

October 19.

Increase.

There is that scattereth, and yet increaseth. — PROV. 11 : 24.

'TIS by defeat we conquer,
Grow rich by growing poor;
And, from our largest givings,
We draw our fullest store.

O God, give me grace to do my best; then am I sure of Thy blessing, whether my power to do good be great or little.

October 20.

Ungrudging Service.

Serve him with a perfect heart, and with a willing mind. — 1 CHRON. 28 : 9.

COUNT well, count well the cost,
Nor grudge to pay;
Be it reproach, or toil, or pain, or strife,
Be it the loss of all — gold, fame and life —
The end is day!

BONAR.

O that I could serve Thee all the days of my life. O that for one day only I could serve Thee wholly as I ought! Truly Thou art worthy of all service, of all honor, yea of eternal praise.

October 21.

Gladness.

The joy of the Lord is your strength. — NEH. 8 : 10.

IT is Thy joy alone, alone Thy joy
That gladdens me;
And for that joy of Thine, that gladdening joy,
I come to Thee.

BONAR.

O Lord, may I never look upon Thee as a severe Judge, who carest not for the joys of Thy people — but remembering that Thou art the Creator of all happiness, may it be my care to take pleasure only in such things as I may bring to Thee, asking Thee to bless.

October 22.

Reason of Afflictions.

For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory. — 2 COR. 4 : 17.

IF Thou hadst not
Been stern to me,
But left me free,
I had forgot
Myself and Thee.

BEN JONSON.

I give Thee thanks, O Father of mercies! that Thou hast not spared the evil that is in me; but hast humbled my nature by severe chastisements — Thy chastisement is upon me, let Thy rod teach me wisdom.

October 23.

Confidence.

Trust in the Lord with all thine heart. — PROV. 3 : 5.

SAD, aching eyes, that through the mists of sorrow,
See all things by your blindness rendered dim,
Grief lasts to-day, but joy shall come to-morrow,
Look up! and trust in Him!

O God of all grace and mercy, who art able to supply every loss, to heal every wound, to dry up every tear, and to dispel every cloud; grant

that when my sorrows abound, my consolations may much more abound. May I be still, and know that Thou art God, acknowledging Thy right to do with me as Thou willest, and confiding in the wisdom and goodness of Thy dispensations.

October 24.

God's Constancy.

I am the Lord, I change not. — MAL. 3 : 6.

O LORD! my heart is sick,
Sick of this everlasting change;
And life runs tediously quick
Through its unresting race and varied range.
Change finds no likeness in itself to Thee;
And wakes no echo in Thy mute Eternity.

FABER.

O Lord, I bless and praise Thee for that Thy promises endure.

That Thy mercy is everlasting.

That Thy love is unchangeable.

That Thou art ever the same God, loving, helping, and comforting Thy people.

October 25.

Godliness.

I had rather be a door-keeper in the house of my God, than to dwell in the tents of wickedness. — Ps. 84 : 10.

THIS would I be, and would none other be —
But a religious servant of my God;
And know there is none other God but He,
And willingly to suffer mercy's rod.
Joy in His grace, and live but in His love,
And seek my bliss but in the world above.

NICHOLAS BRETON.

Come, Holy Spirit, and bring from heaven a ray of Thy light! Come, Thou Father of the poor, Thou giver of gifts, Thou light of the world, the blessed Comforter, the dear guest of the soul and its sweetest refreshment; Thou, our repose in labor, our coolness in heat, our comfort in affliction. O most blessed Spirit, fill the hearts of Thy faithful people.

October 26.

All Service Accepted.

We are unprofitable servants. — LUKE 17 : 10.

I AM ashamed, dear Lord, they are so few;
Yet do I know Thy pitying love perceives —
Searching this heart of mine all through and through —
Not what I did, but what I tried to do;
Accept my sheaves!

MRS. M. S. WALKER.

Thou wilt not spurn our humble offerings, O Father, poor, and scant, and unworthy though they be. O grant us strength that we may yet bring Thee better sheaves. *Amen.*

October 27.

Our Rest.

There remaineth therefore a rest to the people of God. — HEB. 4 : 9.

FROM unrealities,
From hollow scenes of change,
From ache and emptiness,
Pass over to thy rest,
The rest of God.

BONAR.

We thank Thee that Thou art preparing for us that rest — other things pass away, but Thou dost not pass away. Other things are changing, but Thou dost not change. Time has broken down familiar things, but there remaineth a rest upon which time has no power.

We thank Thee, O Lord, for that rest.

October 28.

God's Justice.

Thou art just in all that is brought upon us; for thou hast done right. — NEH. 9 : 33.

HE took them from me, one by one,
The things I set my heart upon.
Oh! did they come, they and their love,
Between me and my Lord above?
Were they as idols in my breast?
It may be: God in heaven knows best.

F. H. MARR.

O God, who scourgest our faults with strokes of love, in order to cleanse us from our iniquities; grant us both to profit by Thy chastening, and speedily to rejoice in Thy consolation, through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

October 29.

Our Master.

Know ye not that . . . ye are not your own. — 1 COR. 6 : 19.

HE that beholds all from on high
Knows better what to do than I.
I'm not mine own; should I repine
If He dispose of what's not mine?

HENRY MORE.

Take possession, O Jesus, of Thy right in my soul . . . and root out all self-righteousness, self-interest, and self-will; that Thou mayest be my righteousness, and all in me.

October 30.

Vigilance.

And what I say unto you, I say unto all, Watch. — MARK 13 : 37.

"WATCH, for ye know not the hour!"
Suppose that He should come
And find that you were not watching,
Or thinking of going home:

With all the house ungarnished,
And all the lights grown dim;
Suppose He should knock unheeded,
And no welcome ready for Him!

SOPHIE DOWNING.

Make us, we beseech Thee, O Lord our God, watchful and heedful in awaiting the coming of Thy son, Christ our Lord: that when He shall come and knock He may find us, not sleeping in sins, but awake and rejoicing in His praises; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord.

October 31.

Love Fulfillment of Law.

Bear ye one another's burdens, and so fulfil the law of Christ. — GAL. 6 : 2.

WE all are weak, and all are strong;
Patience righteth every wrong,
All good things the will must task,
All achievements patience ask;
Chiefly with each other's weakness
Need we patience, love, and meekness,
Who taketh ill another's ill
Beareth two loads up the hill.

O Christ, who not only madest the law, but didst, in Thine own person, fulfill it, grant that we, following in Thy steps, may imitate Thy holy example, showing a spirit of love and helpfulness to every one with whom we come in contact from day to day.

November 1.

God's Tender Care.

And even to your old age I am he: and even to hoar hairs will I carry you: I have made and I will bear. — Isa. 46 : 4.

So I sit to-night in the waning light,
And my life sinks low with the setting sun.
My weary hands and my failing sight
Tell me the web of my life is done.
Give me, O Master, so good and true!
My wage — and some better work to do.

Into Thy hands, O Lord, I commend myself, my spirit, soul and body. . . Guard my lying down and my rising up, from henceforth and forever.

November 2.

Sins of the Age.

None calleth for justice, nor any pleadeth for truth, they trust in vanity and speak lies. — Isa. 59 : 4.

Help, mighty God!
The strong man bows himself,
The good and wise are few,
The standard-bearers faint,
The enemy prevails.
Help, God of Might,
In this Thy Church's night.

Bonar.

That it may please Thee to give us true repentance; to forgive us all our sins, negligences

and ignorances: and to endue us with the grace of Thy Holy Spirit to amend our lives according to Thy Holy Word.

We beseech Thee to hear us, good Lord.

November 3.

Piety.

Godliness is profitable unto all things, having promise of the life that now is, and of that which is to come. — 1 TIM. 4 : 8.

GRANT me the comforts of a soul forgiven,
And wisdom, Lord, to see
How mortal man lives on the verge of heaven
By living unto Thee.

Send Thy good Spirit to direct and guide me in the ways and works of godliness: purify my affections; enliven my devotion; teach me how to pray, and how to hear, and read, and profit by Thy Holy Word.

November 4.

Our Unworthiness.

We are unprofitable servants. — LUKE 17 : 10.

MY soul! what hast thou done for God?
Look o'er thy misspent years and see;
Sum up what thou hast done for God,
And then what God hath done for thee.

FABER.

Forgive us the sins of our past lives. Forgive us that goodness is so feeble in us, and that sel-

fishness, pride and worldliness are so strong; that when we should have been fruitful under such teachings and influences of Christ, we are unfruitful. Forgive us everything that tarnishes the brightness that Thou dost see in Thy beloved, and grant, we beseech of Thee, that we may have that peace which God gives to those whose sins are pardoned.

November 5.

The Choice.

How long halt ye between two opinions? If the Lord be God, follow him: but if Baal, then follow him. — 1 KINGS 18 : 21.

NOR let the body dull the soul,
Its weakness, fears and sloth despise;
Man toils, and roams from pole to pole,
To gain some earthly fleeting prize.
The Highest Good he little cares
To win, or striving soon despairs.
Press on.

LEHR.

Grant us, O Lord, not to mind earthly things, but to love things heavenly; and even now, while we are placed among things that are passing away, to cleave to those that shall abide; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

November 6.

Lowliness.

God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace unto the humble. — JAMES 4 : 6.

THE saint that wears heaven's brightest crown
In deepest adoration bends:
The weight of glory bows him down
The most, when most his soul ascends:
Nearest the throne itself, must be
The footstool of humility.

MONTGOMERY.

O God, by whose will all things were made, and by whose truth they continue in being; we beseech Thee to keep us under Thy shelter, lest we be cast down from our chief happiness by the swellings of pride; grant us ever to ascend to heaven by the steps of humility; and because Thou art the Fountain of life, from Thee may we drink what by faith we thirst for: in Thy light may we shine with the light of knowledge, and reap the fruit of righteousness in an everlasting exaltation.

November 7.

God Near in Trouble.

Be not far from me, for trouble is near; for there is none to help.— Ps. 22 : 11.

Go not far from me, O my strength,
Whom all my times obey;
Take from me anything Thou wilt,
But go not Thou away.

And let the storm that does Thy work,
Deal with me as it may.

O support me by Thy grace. Hold Thou me up, lest I sink. Let not the waves overwhelm me.

November 8.

God's Decisions Just.

I know, O Lord, that thy judgments are right, and that thou in faithfulness hast afflicted me. — Ps. 119 : 75.

Each anxious thought, each sleepless night,
each unrefreshing prayer,
Each bitter tear Thou shed'st on earth, is in
high heaven my care;
Each great bereavement, shaking the founda-
tion of Thy life,
Each unsuccess, each calumny, and all Thy
weary strife.

I know that even the hours of my sufferings are limited by Thy providence, and Thou countest them to me. Thou appointest their beginning and end. Grant that I may acquiesce with my whole heart in what Thou art pleased to inflict, who orderest everything for the good of Thy creatures.

November 9.

Heaven.

God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain. — REV. 21 : 4.

No aching hearts are there,
No tear-dimmed eye, no form by sickness wasted,
No cheek grown pale through penury or care,
No spirits crushed beneath the woes they bear,
No sighs for bliss untasted.

O Lord, grant that the thought of eternal joy may not lull me into present rest, but rather quicken me to holiness and zeal.

November 10.

All Work Useful.

Those members of the body which seem to be more feeble, are necessary. — 1 COR. 12 : 22.

PERHAPS for aught of good I am unfit,
Most worthless and most useless all;
Yet make me but the meanest thing that lives
Within thy Salem's wall.
I shall be well content, my God, to be,
Or do, or suffer aught that pleaseth Thee;
O cast me not away.

BONAR.

Grant me more confidence in Thy love, O Father, and enable me to realize that with Thy blessing the work of the feeblest and weakest of Thy children, may be fruitful unto God.

November 11.

Sufficiency of God.

Lord, thou hast been our dwelling-place in all generations.— Ps. 90 : 1.

THOU, Lord, alone, art all thy children need,
And there is none beside :
From Thee the streams of blessedness proceed,
In Thee the blest abide.
Fountain of life and all-abiding grace,
Our source, our centre, and our dwelling-place.

MADAME GUYON.

O God, since Thou art my dwelling-place — help me by Thy holiness to be worthy of such a Home.

November 12.

Immutability of God.

Jesus Christ, the same yesterday, and to-day and for ever. — HEB. 13 : 8.

I CHANGE, He changes not,
The Christ can never die;
His love, not mine, the resting place,
His truth, not mine, the tie.

BONAR.

We give Thee thanks, O Lord God Almighty, which art, and wast, and art to come.

November 13.

Holiness.

One thing have I desired of the Lord, that will I seek after: that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the Lord, and to inquire in his temple.—Ps. 27 : 4.

I BARGAIN not for blessing,
I leave that to Thy will;
But keep me from transgressing,
Oh keep me faithful still.
Oh keep me true to Thee,
Unchanged in fervent loyalty.

BONAR.

O God, who hast called me to holiness, give me a firm faith in Thy power, through our Lord Jesus Christ, that by His assistance I may get the mastery over all my sins and corruptions; that I may be redeemed from all iniquity; that I may be holy, as He who has called me is holy.

November 14.

Energy.

Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do it with thy might. —ECCL. 9 : 10.

"ALL must be earnest in a world like ours,"
If we would gain a home in worlds on high;
If we aspire to joys which never die,
We must engage our best, our chiefest powers.

O God . . . deliver us from all sloth in Thy work, all coldness in Thy cause; and grant us, by looking unto Thee, to rekindle our love, and by waiting upon Thee to renew our strength.

November 15.

Christ's Coming.

I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly. — JOHN 10 : 10.

ONCE He came in blessing
All our ills redressing —
Came in likeness lowly,
Son of God most holy;
Bore the Cross to save us,
Hope and freedom gave us.

Still He comes within us;
Still His voice would win us
From the sins that hurt us,
Would to Truth convert us
From our foolish errors,
Ere He comes in terrors.

MICHAEL WEISS.

Come, Lord Jesus, and purify our hearts. Sanctify us — perfect us in Thee.

November 16.

Eternity of Life.

The Lord commanded the blessing, even life forevermore. — PS. 133 : 3.

We feel our immortality o'ersweep
All time, all tears, all pain, all fears,
Pealing like the eternal thunders of the deep,
This truth into our ears —
Ye live forever.

O Lord, grant us so to live, that the thought of Eternity be to us not terrible, but joyful evermore.

November 17.

The Use of Suffering.

It is good for me that I have been afflicted; that I might learn thy statutes. — Ps. 119 : 71.

Not in each shell the diver brings to air
Is found the priceless pearl; but only where
Mangled and torn, and bruised well-nigh to death,
The wounded oyster draws its laboring breath.
O tried and suffering soul, gauge here your gain;
The pearl of patience is the fruit of pain.

O Lord, my God, I will give thanks unto Thee forever.

November 18.

Acquiescence.

Do all things without murmurings. — Philip 2 : 14.

Yield not to ceaseless, vain regrets!
It is no balm for woe;
It cannot close the hidden spring,
From whence the withering flow.

Forget not that afflictions deep
By God's own grace are sent;
The one most precious is refined;
For water — rock was rent.

O Lord, I will whatsoever Thou willest; I will because Thou willest; I will in that manner Thou willest; I will as long as Thou willest.

November 19.

The Furnace of Affliction.

Perfect through sufferings.—HEB. 2 : 10.

HE comes, and lays my heart, all heated,
On the hard anvil, minded so
Into His own fair shape to beat it,
With His great hammer, blow on blow.
And yet I whisper, As God will,
And at His heaviest blows hold still,

JULIUS STURM.

Give me patience, O Lord, if only this once. Assist me, O my God, and then I will not fear, however grievously I be afflicted.

November 20.

The Universal Brotherhood.

Have we not all one Father? hath not one God created us. — MAL. 2 : 10.

MY brethren, friends, and kinsmen these,
Who do my Heavenly Father's will;
Who aim at perfect holiness,
And all Thy counsels to fulfill,

Athirst to be whate'er Thou art,
And love their God with all their heart.

May the Lord kindle in our hearts the fire of His love, and the flame of everlasting charity. *Amen.*

November 21.

The Lord Chooses Aright.

Your Father knoweth what things ye have need of, before ye ask him. — MATT. 6 : 8.

FOR His great love hath compassed
Our nature and our need.
We know not, but He knoweth,
And He will bless indeed.
Therefore, O Heavenly Father,
Give what is best to me,
And take the wants unanswered
As offerings made to Thee.

O Lord, our God, who alone foreseest and bestowest things needful for our salvation; do Thou both bestow, we pray Thee, on our souls the hearty desire of imploring Thy mercy, and graciously vouchsafe us what will be for our good; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

November 22.

The Lord our Strength.

Be strong and of a good courage; be not afraid, neither be thou dismayed: for the Lord thy God is with thee whithersoever thou goest. — JOSH. 1 : 9.

FEAR not, I am with thee, oh, be not dismayed,
For I am thy God, I will still give thee aid;
I'll strengthen thee, help thee, and cause thee
to stand,
Upheld by my gracious, omnipotent hand.

G. KEITH.

I am all weakness, Thou art Might; in Thee I may be almighty over myself. In Thee I can do all things. Let me not think, then, of my own weakness, save to trust in Thy Strength. Let my weakness ever recall to me Thy strength.

November 23.

Patient Continuance.

But ye, brethren, be not weary in well doing. — 2 THESS. 3 : 13.

FILL up each hour with what will last;
Buy up the moments as they go;
The life above, when this is past,
Is the ripe fruit of life below.

Bless me in all my ways, and make me a blessing to others. Enable me to do some good this day; and in all I say or do, give me an eye single to Thy glory.

November 24.

The Holy Home.

This day is salvation come to this house. — LUKE 19 : 9.

O HAPPY house! and happy servitude!
Where all alike one Master own;

Where daily duty, in Thy strength pursued,
Is never hard nor toilsome known;
Where each one serves Thee, meek and lowly,
Whatever Thine appointment be,
Till common tasks seem great and holy,
When they are done as unto Thee.

SPITTA.

Almighty and everlasting God, be Thou present to our duties, and grant the protection of Thy presence to all that dwell in this house: that Thou mayest be known to be the defender of Thy family, and the inhabitant of this dwelling; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

November 25.

The Bounties of God.

O Lord, how manifold are thy works! in wisdom hast thou made them all: the earth is full of thy riches. — Ps. 104 : 24.

O THOU of all goodness the source and the cause,
O Thou of all blessings the end,
The seasons, fulfilling Thy wondrous laws
To boundless beneficence tend.
Let the chorus of hills wake a glorious strain,
Let the autumn respond to the spring,
Let the nations rejoice in the harvest again,
And endless beneficence sing.

Praised be the Lord daily, even the Lord that helpeth us and poureth His blessings upon us.

Blessed be the name of His Majesty forever, and let all the earth be filled with His glory.

November 26.

A Thankful Spirit.

Godliness with contentment is great gain. — 1 TIM. 6 : 6.

SOME murmur when their sky is clear,
And wholly bright to view,
If one small speck of dark appear
In their great heaven of blue.
And some with thankful love are filled,
If but one streak of light,
One ray of God's good mercy, gild
The darkness of their night.

TRENCH.

Gracious God, who hast taught us by Thy holy word that it is a joyful and a pleasant thing to be thankful; give me grace, I beseech Thee, to be truly and sincerely thankful for all Thy mercies from time to time bestowed upon me, and grant that I may use all Thy gifts and mercies to set forth Thy glory. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

November 27.

Overflowing Blessings.

The living God . . . giveth us richly all things to enjoy. — 1 TIM. 6 : 17.

OH ! bring we then all sweet and gracious things,
To touch the lives that lie so chill and drear,
That they may dream of some diviner sphere,
Whence each soft ray of love and beauty springs.

We beseech Thee, O Lord, that . . . we may feel that we receive everything from Thee as a grace, as a gift undeserved ; and that, conscious of living upon Thee, we may learn to lean toward our fellow-men, and in our small measure endeavor to reflect upon them from ourselves the same charity. *Amen.*

November 28.

Thankfulness.

Neither murmur ye, as some of them also murmured. — 1 COR. 10 : 10.

TEACH me to live ! my daily cross to bear,
Nor murmur though I bend beneath its load,
Only be with me ; let me feel Thee near ;
Thy smile sheds gladness on the darkest road.
PARISH VISITOR.

O God, who chastisest us in Thy love, and refreshest us amid Thy chastening ; grant that we may ever be able to give Thee thanks for both ; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

November 29.

Praise.

God our strength. — Ps. 81 : 1.

How great a being, Lord, is Thine,
Which doth all beings keep!
Thy knowledge is the only line
To sound so vast a deep.
Thou art a sea without a shore,
A sun without a sphere;
Thy time is now and evermore,
Thy place is everywhere.

JOHN MASON.

O Lord, my God, Thou art very great. . . O Lord, how manifold are Thy works! in wisdom hast Thou made them all: the earth is full of Thy riches.

November 30.

Repentance.

Father, I have sinned against heaven, and before thee. — LUKE 15 : 18.

Of sins, that as a cloud have hid Thy face,
Of Thy care slighted, and Thy grievèd face,
Lord, I repent; accept my tears and grief,
In love which puts sin's envious veil aside,
Rending the veil of flesh which for me died,
Lord, I believe: help Thou mine unbelief.

Make us, O Lord, to abhor our own evils with our whole hearts; that at the coming of Thy

Son, our Lord, we may be enabled to receive His good things, through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord.

December 1.

The Greatness of God.

Behold God is mighty. . . He is mighty in strength and wisdom. — JOB 36 : 5.

THOU art wise ; before Thee stand
Hidden things unveiled to Thee,
Countest up the grains of sand,
Fathomest the deepest sea.
And Thou knowest well how blind,
Dark and crooked is my mind ;
Give me wisdom, in Thy light
Let me please my God aright.

PAUL GERHARDT.

O Lord, give Thy servant an understanding heart.

December 2.

Perfected Knowledge.

For now we see through a glass, darkly ; but then face to face ; now I know in part ; but then shall I know, even as also I am known. — 1 COR. 13 : 12.

I AM Thine, not mine —
One day, completed into Thine intent,
I shall be able to discourse with Thee ;
For Thy idea, gifted with a self,
Must be of one with the mind whence it sprung,
And fit to talk with Thee about Thy thoughts.

In the hope of that blessed eternity of knowledge, help me, O Lord, to work faithfully, even though ignorant of Thy designs. *Amen.*

December 3.

The Breaker.

The breaker is come up before them. — MIC. 2 : 13.

BREAK down my self-sufficient pride,
And let me at Thy feet abide;
And there adore Thee, mighty Lord,
Who never, never, break'st Thy word.

Shatter my idols, O Lord,
Destroy my self-love,
Overcome my sins,
And build me up anew in Thee.

December 4.

The Ever-living God.

I know that my redeemer liveth. — JOB 19 : 25.

HE lives, as He once lived on earth,
The Friend — compassionate and true!
No pleading prayer, but He still hears;
No sorrow but He helps us through!
Are any tempted? He is near!
Is sin a burden? He forgives!
O hope that ages have not dimmed —
I know that my Redeemer lives.

Grant, O Lord, that I may never think of Thee as of a God far distant, hard to be reached, hard to be entreated, but as the Maker of all

things living. Life of my life, Source of my joys, my Helper, and my ever-loving, ever-present Friend.

December 5.

Acceptable Gifts.

For the Lord seeth not as man seeth : for man looketh on the outward appearance, but the Lord looketh on the heart. — 1 SAM. 16 : 7.

VAINLY we offer each ample oblation,
Vainly with gold would His favor secure.
Richer by far is the heart's adoration,
Dearer to God are the prayers of the poor.
HEBER.

O Lord, help us to remember that Thou wilt have mercy and not sacrifice — and help us to give to Thee that which Thou lovest.

December 6.

Trust.

What I do thou knowest not now, but thou shalt know hereafter. — JOHN 13 : 7.

BETWEEN the mysteries of death and life
Thou standest, loving, guiding, not explaining ;
We ask, and Thou art silent ; yet we gaze,
And our charmed hearts forget their drear complaining.
No crushing faith, no stony destiny,
O Lamb that hast been slain, we find in Thee.
H. B. STOWE.

Grant, O Lord, that we may wait with patient trustfulness until the moment when, trained to understand Thee, we shall hear the explanation of all that now so sorely perplexes us. Enable us to realize that it is Love alone which refuses to give to us that which we could not now receive, and on that Love may we rest in peace and calm assurance.

December 7.

The Harvest.

He which soweth sparingly shall reap also sparingly. — 2 COR. 9 : 6.

WHAT hast Thou wrought for Right and Truth,
For God and Man,
From the golden hours of bright-eyed youth
To life's midspan?

O God, ever blessed and holy; . . . on us as we look up to the light of Thy countenance, the shadows of shameful remembrance fall; and to all Thy mercies we must still answer with a cry for more. . . Visit us with the wrestlings of Thy Spirit, and lay on us the Cross, if we may but grow into the holiness of Christ.

December 8.

Brotherly Love.

He that loveth his brother abideth in the light, and there is none occasion of stumbling in him. — 1 JOHN 2 : 10.

Oh, let Thy love our pattern be,
Let Thy mercy teach one brother
To forgive and love another;
That, copying Thy mercy here,
Thy goodness may hereafter rear
Our souls unto Thy glory, when
Our dust shall cease to be with men.

Jeremy Taylor.

Give us grace to imitate Thy goodness, that we may forgive, and give, and love, as becomes the disciples of Jesus Christ.

December 9.

Our Pitiful Father.

Like as a father pitieth his children, so the Lord pitieth them that fear him. — Ps. 103 : 13.

If vexing thoughts within me rise,
And sore dismayed my spirit dies,
Still He, who once vouchsafed to bear
The sickening anguish of despair,
Shall sweetly soothe, shall gently dry
The throbbing heart, the streaming eye.

Sir Robert Grant.

Come, O blessed Spirit . . . uphold my soul in every time of trouble or adversity. *Amen.*

December 10.

Rest after Labor.

. . . *The day that the Lord shall give thee rest from thy sorrow, and from thy fear, and from the hard bondage wherein thou wast made to serve.* — Isa. 14 : 3.

JOY springs from sorrow, virtue from temptation,
And daily death is but a happier birth;
Then comes our Sabbath of regeneration,
Uniting heaven forevermore with earth.

God of all grace . . . Make me watchful against temptation, strong in faith, diligent in duty, patient in trial, and fervent in prayer. And in Thine own good time may I be permitted to enter into that rest which remaineth for the people of God.

December 11.

True Service.

He that hath my commandments, and keepeth them, he it is that loveth me; and he that loveth me shall be loved of my father, and I will love him, and will manifest myself to him. — JOHN 14: 21.

THE gospel hath for him no ban
Who doeth the Saviour's word;
Who loveth God and serveth man
Is one with Christ our Lord.

Grant, Lord, that I may not set up my judgments against Thine, nor ever in my thoughts even, condemn any whom Thou mayest see to be more truly loving than I. *Amen.*

December 12.

The Victory Sure.

Fight the good fight of faith. — 1 TIM. 6 : 12.

FOR right is right, since God is God ;
And right the day must win ;
To doubt would be disloyalty,
To falter would be sin.

FABER.

Confident in Thy Power, O Lord, may we press on with courage, and with strength. O uphold us, that we faint not in the hour of danger.

For Thy great Name's sake. *Amen.*

December 13.

Right Living.

Be ye steadfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labor is not in vain in the Lord. — 1 COR. 15 : 58.

YOU must live each day at your very best :
The work of the world is done by few ;
God asks that a part be done by you.

Grant, O Lord, unto Thy servant, the spirit to think and to do always such things as be rightful. Give me grace to trust Thee, and to feel assured that the path of duty is the path of true and lasting happiness. Teach me Thy will, and incline my heart unto Thy testimonies, that in

all my works begun, continued, or ended in Thee, I may glorify Thy name, and finally, by Thy mercy, obtain everlasting life, through Jesus Christ, my Lord.

December 14.

The Sympathy of Christ.

For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin. — HEB. 4 : 15.

THOU knowest, not alone as God, all-knowing;
As man, our mortal weakness Thou hast proved;
On earth, with pure sympathies o'erflowing,
O Saviour, Thou hast wept and Thou hast loved.
And love and sorrow still to Thee may come,
And find a hiding-place, a rest, a home.

JANE BORTHWICK.

O Lord, who understandest our every heart-throb, who knowest our temptations, and art witness of our struggles against them, of each conquest and of each yielding, to Thee we come for strength — knowing that Thou art more willing to give help than we are to ask it.

December 15.

The Timid Heart.

Ye who sometimes were far off, are made nigh. — EPH. 2 : 13.

My doubting heart
Trembles with its own weakness, and afraid
I dwell apart
From Thee, on whom alone my hope is stayed:
I would, and yet I do not know Thy will
And perfect love; am still
Trusting myself, to be by self betrayed.

O blessed Lord!
Far off, yet near, on me new grace bestow,
As on Thy word!
I go to meet Thee; even now I know
Thou nearer art than when my quest began;
One cry, and Thy feet ran
To meet me; Lord, I will not let Thee go.

A. D. F. RANDOLPH.

Lord, strengthen me in the faith.

December 16.

Vigilance.

And what I say unto you, I say unto all, watch. — MARK 13: 37.

I WANT a godly fear,
A quick, discerning eye,
That looks to Thee when sin is near,
And sees the tempter fly.
A spirit still prepared,
And armed with zealous care —
Forever standing on its guard,
And watching unto prayer.

CHARLES WESLEY.

O Lord, let me take watchful heed to tame nature, to cherish grace, to keep Thy law, to work out my salvation.

December 17.

Patience.

Let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing. — JAMES 1 : 4.

By patience man becomes more excellent,
Fairer than gold, clear as the firmament,
More pure from each vile element,
In every grace more eminent.

To Jesus more acceptable,
More like to saints unblamable,
To enemies more terrible,
And to his friends more lovable.

THOMAS À KEMPIS.

Grant us this most excellent gift, O Father, who art the source and sum of all Patience, bearing with our sinfulness, our murmurings and fretfulness, waiting calmly, helpfully for our amendment.

December 18.

Our Folly, God's Wisdom.

O God, thou knowest my foolishness. — Ps. 69 : 5.

My thoughts are foolish, blind and crude;
Thou only knowest what is good.

Let me bewail my past transgressions, and for the future resist temptation; let me correct my sinful inclinations, and labor after all needful virtues.

December 19.

Importance of Each Day.

Consecrate yourselves to-day to the Lord. — Ex. 32 : 29.

LITTLE by little, sure and slow,
We fashion our future of bliss or woe,
As the present passes away.
Our feet are climbing the stairway bright,
Up to the region of endless light,
Or gliding downward into the night,
Little by little, and day by day.

To this day and to all days, a perfect, holy, peaceful, healthy, sinless course,
Vouchsafe, O Lord.

December 20.

Burden-sharing.

We then that are strong ought to bear the infirmities of the weak, and not to please ourselves. — ROM. 15 : 1.

LIFT a little! lift a little!
Neighbor, lend a helping hand
To that heavy laden brother
Who for weakness scarce can stand;

What to thee with thy strong muscle
Seems a light and easy load,
Is to him a ponderous burden,
Cumbering his pilgrim road.

AMY HEADLEY.

Grant us, Lord, keen sight to detect the needs of others; tender hearts to feel for their sufferings; quick minds to plan for their relief; strong arms to lift their burdens.

December 21.

Prayer for Wisdom.

Make me to understand the way of thy precepts. — Ps. 119 : 27.

AND let Thy wisdom be my guide,
Nor take Thy light from me away,
Thy grace be ever at my side,
That from the path I may not stray
Which Thou dost love, but evermore
In steadfast faith my course fulfill,
And keep Thy word and do Thy will,
Thy love within, Thy heaven before.

W. C. DESSLER.

Guide us in Thy way, O Christ, and mercifully show the fountain of wisdom to our thirsting minds; that we may be free from sorrowful heaviness, and may drink in the sweetness of life eternal.

December 22.

Gifts Possible to All.

Silver and gold have I none; but such as I have give I. — ACTS 3 : 6.

POOR indeed thou must be, if around thee
Thou no ray of light and joy canst throw;
If no silken cord of love hath bound thee
To some little world, through weal or woe;
If no dear eyes thy tender love can brighten,
No fond voices answer to thine own;
If no brother's sorrow thou canst lighten
By daily sympathy and gentle tone.

H. W. LIST.

O Jesus, who lovedst us infinitely, and biddest us love as Thou lovedst,

Pour Thy love into our souls, that we may love Thee and each other, with Thine own love.

December 23.

The Lord's Mission.

He hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the broken-hearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised. This day is this scripture fulfilled in your ears. — LUKE 4 : 18, 21.

SOON the day will be here when the Saviour was
born,
All the world should agree as one voice,
All nations unite to salute the blest morn,
All ends of the earth shall rejoice.
Grim death is deprived of his all-killing sting,
And the grave is triumphant no more;
Saints, angels, and men hallelujahs shall sing,
And the rich shall remember the poor.
Good Jesus, Thou hast been very tender to me;
Make me very tender to, and of, all who are
Thine;
For love of Thy most tender love.

December 24.

Christmas Eve.

Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men. — LUKE 2 : 14.

OH, by the Babe of Bethlehem,
What answer are we making?
Brothers are dying at our doors,
And stricken hearts are breaking;
Thrice blest the deeds this Christmas-tide
Which, selfish love expelling,
Shall make that home a "house of bread"
Where famine now is dwelling.

W. CHATTERTON DIX.

Grant, we beseech Thee, Almighty God, that as we are bathed in the new light of Thine Incarnate Word, that which shines by faith in our minds may blaze out likewise in our actions; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

December 25.

Christ is Born.

Behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people; for unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. — LUKE 2 : 10, 11.

HAIL the heaven-born Prince of Peace!
Hail the Sun of Righteousness!
Light and life to all He brings;
Risen with healing in His wings;
Mild He lays His glory by,
Born that man no more may die;
Born to raise the sons of earth,
Born to give them second birth.

CHARLES WESLEY.

Grant to us, Almighty God, that as Thy Salvation, wondrous with a new and heavenly light, went forth on this day's festival to redeem the world, so it may ever beam forth in the renewal of our hearts; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord.

December 26.

The One Thing Needful.

Seek ye first the kingdom of God and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you. — MATT. 6 : 33.

IN having all things, and not Thee, what have I?
Not having Thee, what have my labors got?

Let me enjoy but Thee, what further crave I?
And having Thee alone, what have I not?
I wish nor sea, nor land, nor would I be
Possessed of heaven, heaven unpossessed of Thee.

FRANCIS QUARLES.

Come, blessed Spirit, and reveal to my soul the exceeding great power and beauty of heavenly things. Teach me to love them above the passing things of earth, and show me how I may attain to them forever, for the blessed Saviour's sake. *Amen.*

December 27.

God's Orderings Wise.

Your father knoweth what things ye have need of. — MATT. 6 : 8.

EVEN or rough my road, I go
Sure that Thy hand protecteth;
The counsel of Thy love I know,
For me that path selecteth;
Let life and death, then, mark the year,
Be joy or grief my lot to bear,
All still my good effecteth.

Grant me a humble and resigned heart, that with perfect content I may ever acquiesce in all the methods of Thy grace, that I may never frustrate the designs of Thy mercy, by unreasonable fears, by sloth, or self-love. *Amen.*

December 28.

A Sure Promise.

As thy days, so shall thy strength be. — DEUT. 33 : 25.

NOW looking back to the long hours ended,
I wonder why I feared them as they came;
Each brought the strength on which its task depended,
And so my prayer was answered just the same.
Now with new faith I pray,
"Strength for each day."

C. B. LE RON.

O God! who hast sent Thine own Son into the world to seek and save the lost, and who hast prepared for them that love Thee, such good things as pass man's understanding, pour into my heart such love toward Thee, that, loving Thee above all things, I may obtain Thy promises of guidance and strength in this world, and of joy and happiness at Thy right hand in the world to come.

December 29.

Self-examination.

Let us search and try our ways, and turn again to the Lord. — LAM. 3 : 40.

HAVE I laid by from summer hours
Ripe fruits as well as leaves and flowers?

Hath my past year a growth to harden
As well as fewer sins to pardon?
Is God in all things more and more
A King within me than before?

FABER.

Our Father, grant that we may be able to sit in judgment upon ourselves. May we be able to go searching to the very bottom of our lives, that we may know where we stand. May we know where our nature hinges, where the whole force of our being is most found.

And may we hear the voice of God, believe on Him, repent, change, so that we shall pass from death unto life.

December 30.

God's Knowledge of Us.

Thou, even thou only, knowest the hearts of all the children of men. —1 KINGS 8 : 39.

WE are not always at our best!
Dear Lord, Thou knowest what was and is
Our best, our worst, our hopes, our fears,
Our sins and our repentant tears,
In Thy great patience we can rest —
Next year may make amends for this.

Grant that I may always live and act as having Thee, O God, the constant witness of my conduct.

December 31.

Progress.

This one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus. — PHIL. 3 : 13, 14.

I HOLD it truth, with him who sings
To one clear harp in divers tones,
That men may rise on stepping-stones
Of their dead selves to higher things.

TENNYSON.

Arise, O Lord, we beseech Thee; and with the glorious might of Thy salvation in Christ Jesus, succor us:

That, whereas by our sins we are surely hindered in running the race that is set before us, Thy grace may always abound for our speedy help.

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